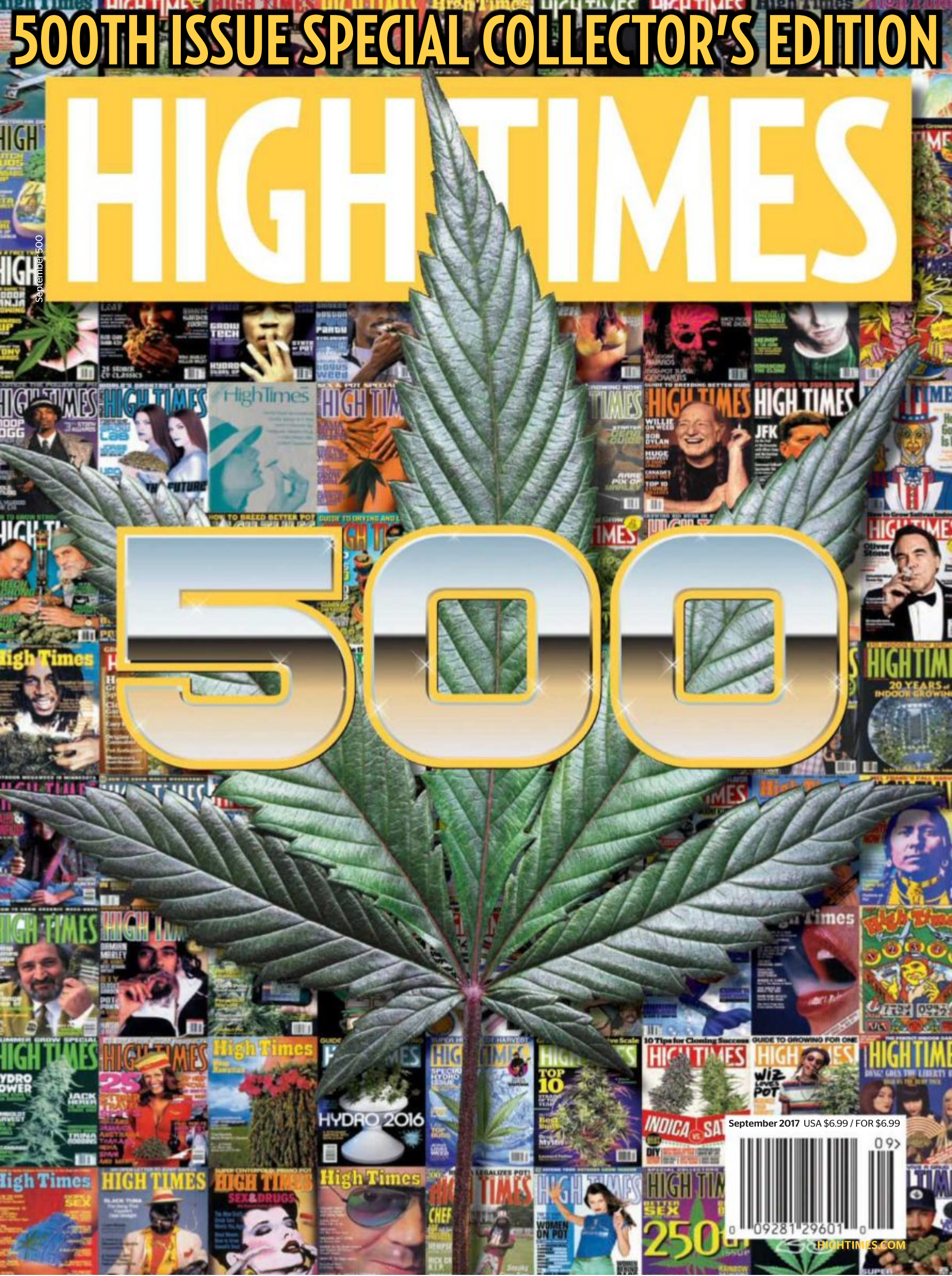


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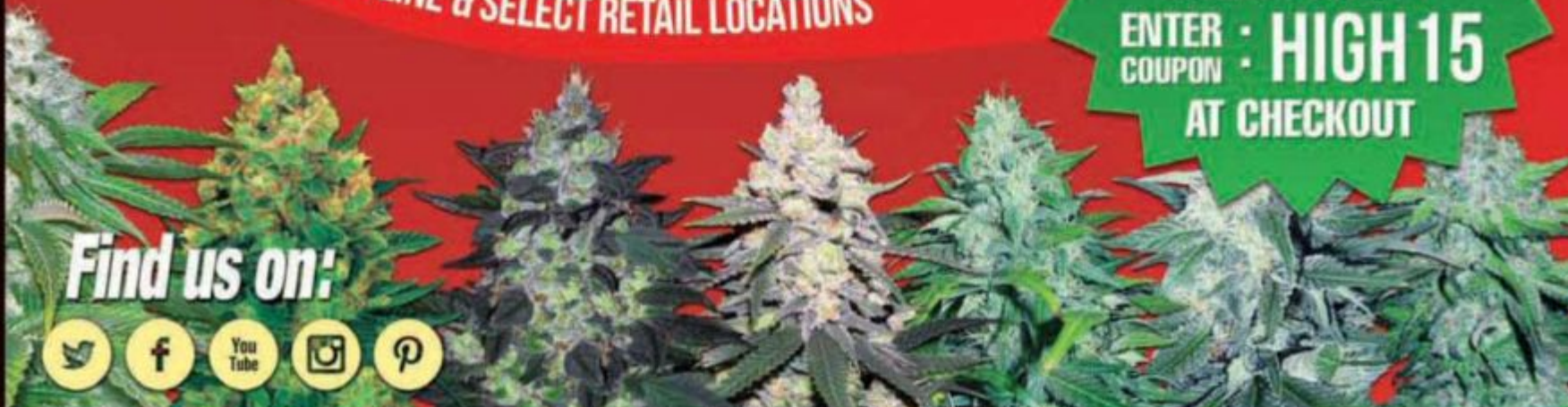


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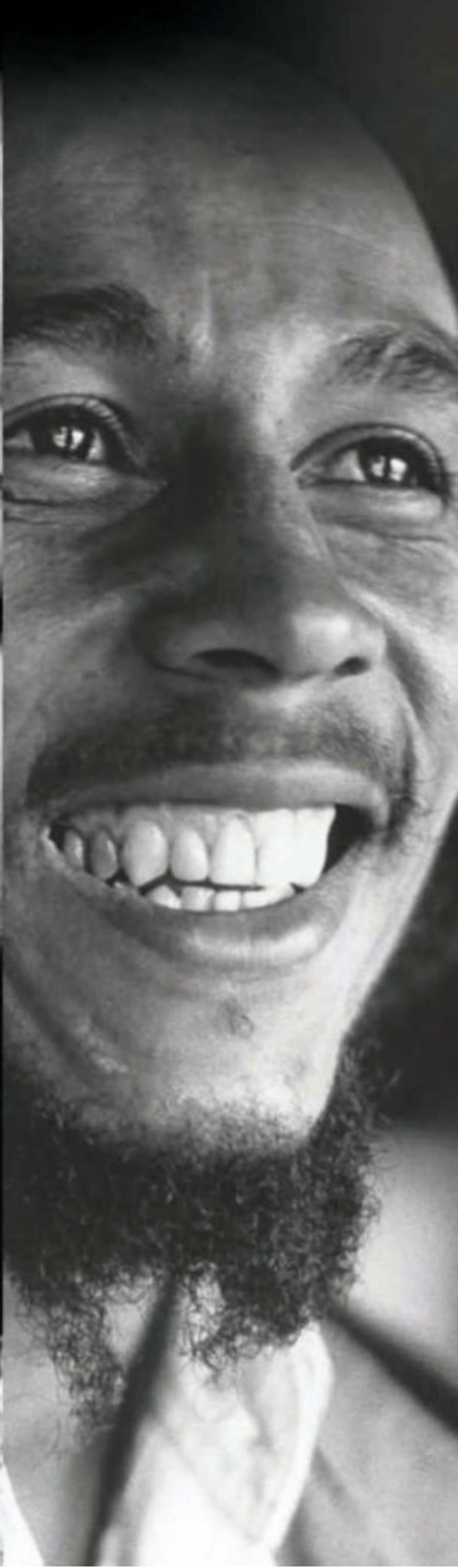
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They're fiercely aware of what's right and wrong, speak their minds and take no prisoners.

They look at life differently, society can't pigeon hole them or put them in box, and they see things where others don't.

Their ideas are sometimes out on the fringe, the ragged edge. They have to be, because they're open to the possibilities and realities that change the world.

Some see them as a fish out of water, trouble makers and oddballs. We see them as gifted, profound and uniquely brilliant.



# HIGH TIMES SEPTEMBER



*“These dispensaries not only boast some of the very best cannabis in the country, but they’ve also set international standards for research, genetics and luxury products.”*

*America’s Best Dispensaries, page 106*

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## 52 500 Issues of High Times

Can you believe it? This is the 500th issue of *High Times*! Join us for a look back at how it all started—plus our favorite covers, celebrities and marijuana moments from the last 43 years! *By Mike Gianakos*

## 63 19th Annual STASH Awards

Our cultivation experts report on 2017’s greatest grow gear to help you upgrade your ganja garden with ingenious and innovative products that will increase the quality and quantity of your home-grown cannabis. *By Danny Danko*

## 76 The Art of Potography

For 43 years, *High Times*’ centerfolds have focused on the rare beauty of our favorite plant. We’re highlighting some of the best pot photography that has ever appeared in the pages of *HT*. *By Mike Hughes*

## 95 From Seed to Smoke

This month, we’re answering the most common cultivation question we receive from readers: “What are the necessary steps to growing from seed to smoke?” Here’s how to grow your own head stash at home in 10 easy steps. *By Nico Escondido*

## 106 America’s Best Dispensaries

States that have enacted dispensary systems are taking the “pot shop” to a whole new level. Here are the very best dispensaries in the country by region, as selected by the *High Times* staff.

## 114 The Best of the High Times Interview

This month, in honor of our 500th issue, we’re featuring some of our all-time-favorite interviews. From Bob Marley in 1976 to Susan Sarandon in 2015, these are the *High Times* Interview’s greatest hits!





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## We've Got You Covered

With 500 issues under our belt, you'd think we would have perfected the cover by now. Unfortunately, producing the perfect cover is more of an art than a science, and while we like to think we get it right more often than not, sometimes a clunker still sneaks through. But all of our covers—the successes, the failures, the sublime and the bizarre—help tell the story of *High Times*, and marijuana, through the years.

So, to celebrate this milestone

issue, we decided to make a gallery of all 500 covers of *HT* so our readers can judge for themselves which ones were hits and which were... misses. Head to our website and take a tour of every *High Times* cover ever, from our debut in 1974 right up to the fabulous issue you now hold in your hands. **Visit [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com) for more**



## We Want To Hear From You!

Tweet your best high observations and comments our way @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag for a chance to be featured on this page! And be sure to follow us on Facebook (Facebook/HIGHTIMES-Mag) and Instagram (@hightimesmagazine) for all the latest news as it's happening!

**@Mark\_wrd93:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag Satisfying to know UK drug policy is being based on a middle class, white woman's anecdotes rather than, say... science.

**@olerafloresB:** Educating patients on #microdosing is so important @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag.

**@KushGodRonald:** Just did an interview for @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag and I am for sure too high to be speaking to anyone.

**@Staschme:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag Getting high in Carmel on the beach with a campfire and watching the waves!

**@BlazarSeeda:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag Quitting smoking using CBD vape is the truth.

**@MUGENHONDAMAN1:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag Any amount of prison time delivered to anyone for smuggling pot is straight up bull!

**@wickedmpulse:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag Marijuana IS a gateway drug—a gateway OFF of opiates. The very opposite of what @ChrisChristie says.

**@ReeferMcGee:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag Marijuana has kept me off opiates for 8 yrs now. My pain level has never been better.

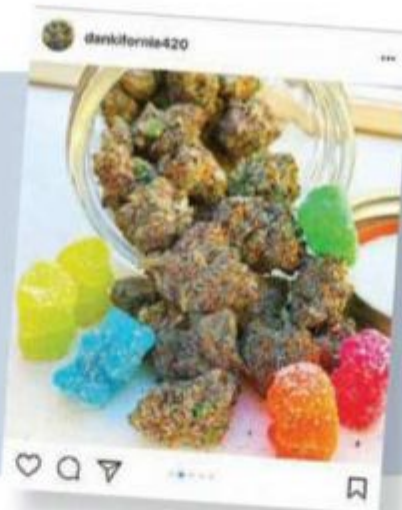
**@DJ\_Timmy\_Surviv:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag ATTN: All Maine dispensaries, I'll be happy to take your surplus off your hands.

**@PeacefulEnemy:** @HIGH\_TIMES\_Mag marijuana leads u to see the beauty in the world which can make you face all your problems cause your mind wants balance and beauty.

## On Instagram

While we don't necessarily recommend that you pair your gelato with gummy bears, @dankifornia420 impressed us with this vibrant shot of Bacio Gelato and some multi-hued gummies. The sweet treats work well together, each bringing out the color in the other. And it's tough to tell which one looks more sugar-coated.

Gelato's been coming on strong lately thanks to its delicious fruity scent and gorgeous purple hues. And it packs a serious punch—in our August 2017 issue, rapper Redman named it as one of his favorite strains.



## Smoking Poll



Which State Has Your Favorite Dispensaries?

Arizona	12%
California	24%
Colorado	29%
Michigan	11%
Nevada	9%
Oregon	9%
Washington	7%

As more and more states embrace cannabis by enacting medical and recreational marijuana laws, the act of purchasing pot is changing profoundly. Once relegated to the black market, where buyers were forced to pay prohibition prices for whatever quality cannabis could be obtained, purchasing pot is becoming a luxury experience thanks to the proliferation of dispensaries.

While some states with legal cannabis laws have been slow to enact dispensary systems, others have taken the "pot shop" to the next level. In this issue, we highlight the very best dispensaries across the country (see page 106), so we wanted our readers to weigh in.

While many states can be proud of the high-quality products and excellent service provided by their dispensaries, it came as no surprise that Colorado and California were the top two finishers in our poll, with Colorado edging out Cali, 29 percent to 24 percent, to take first place. Arizona narrowly beat Michigan, 12 percent to 11 percent, for third place, while Nevada and Oregon tied for fifth with 9 percent of the vote each. Despite having recreational weed and excellent pot shops, Washington came in last, with just 7 percent of the vote. **Take our latest poll online!**





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*"When war turns whole populations into sleepwalkers, outlaws don't join forces with alarm clocks. Outlaws, like poets, rearrange the nightmare."*

—Tom Robbins, *Still Life With Woodpecker*

**This is the 500th issue of *High Times*.** That's quite a milestone for an outlaw publication dedicated to ending the war on marijuana. For 43 years, *High Times* has celebrated the cannabis scene, while shining a piercing light on a dishonest government's inhumane treatment of pot smokers. Yet the magazine's mission was never merely to show that the government had gotten the Drug War all wrong. Instead, the purpose of this outlaw mag has been to rearrange the nightmare of prohibition. Every reader we've taught to grow their own pot, every activist we've helped arm with the knowledge and resolution to fight for marijuana-law reform, every caregiver we've convinced to break the law if necessary so that a patient can have access to medicine, reshapes the world we're stuck in and brings us all that much closer to freedom.

To quote *HT* founder Tom Forçade, from his editorial statement in the November 1976 issue: "Many fine people work for the straight media, but as A.J. Liebling said, 'Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one.' We own one, and this is an important point." Through the years, the pages of *High Times* have been filled with groundbreaking journalism, insightful interviews, stoned celebs and incredible photography. But our guiding principle, from issue no. 1 during the corruption of the Nixon administration to issue no. 500 during the uncertainty of Trump, can be summed up in one sentence: We're here to tell the truth about cannabis, and nobody can stop us.

For the 500th issue of *High Times*, we're taking a look back at the history of the magazine, including some of our favorite covers and centerfolds. Plus, we present our annual STASH Awards, share our picks for the best dispensaries in America, and cover the 10 steps necessary for growing your own pot at home. We hope you enjoy this special milestone issue of *High Times*, and we hope to have the opportunity to bring you 500 more.

*Mike Gianakos*  
Editor-in-chief

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### Never Too Late to Grow

I am 63 years old and up until a year ago I hadn't used pot in 45 years. I have arthritis in both thumbs and was taking hydrocodone twice a day which really knocked me out so I looked for alternatives. I went straight to *HT*. Everything I learned about growing my own came from you guys: where to get seeds, how to grow and when to harvest, dry and cure. I love you guys! I live in a prohibition state so growing is the only way for me.

I am an avid vegetable grower so growing cannabis wasn't a leap. Plus, we own a home built in the 40s so we have a housekeeper's room that has a 3x3 closet in our basement. Bingo, I set up my grow op there and am into flowering of my third crop.

Thank you so much for all the great info. I didn't know about vaping, canabutter and edibles and so much more that has happened in the cannabis industry since the 70s.

I know older users are a tiny minority but we are the right age, income and stage of life to become really good, stealth growers. I have to grow because I cannot imagine where I'd buy pot, even if I wanted to. It is a lot easier to grow at home. The set up costs are high but after that initial cost it is replacement, updates and maintenance. And it really only takes a moderately handy person to set up a grow room. Our adult sons are loving that mom is growing her own.

My husband is new to cannabis but loves what I grow. Edibles are easy and so portable. I nibble on them at our country club—and feel so bold doing it! Clearly I am a recreational user hiding as a medical user. Thanks, again!

Marion W.

### Safe Space

Congratulations on 500 issues *High Times*! I actually remember buying the second issue of the magazine (you literally could not get your hands on the first, it was sold out everywhere). I've been a loyal reader ever since and have learned how to grow my own medicine thanks to you folks. It's comforting to know, no matter what happens with legalization or decriminalization moving forward, *High Times* always has and (hopefully) always will, be there.

Bob  
Los Altos, CA



**I used to grow weed in the closet at my parents' house (illegally), until my dad would discover my plants and pour bleach on them. I was never able to reach my climax growing then.**

### Cultivation Climax

I grew up reading *High Times* magazine back in the '90s. I used to grow weed in the closet at my parents' house (illegally), until my dad would discover my plants and pour bleach on them. I was never able to reach my climax growing then. Now as an adult I am out of the closet and climaxing regularly. I am proud to be successful with my growing and love to snap pictures of my plants. I think that you should use one of my photos on your cover (I'm growing Northern Lights).

Willie B.  
Oregon

Hey Willie, good to hear you're climaxing on the regular. We love receiving garden shots from our readers but the cover is reserved for the highest quality photography of the best cannabis in the world. Keep growing and sending us your photos. You might just end up in our monthly Pix of the Crop column.

### It's Not Paranoia if They're Really Out to Get You

The first time I smoked weed in college, I let a random boy drive me to a sketchy apartment complex where we smoked a bowl with his dealer before the boy dropped me off at my dorm room. Little did he know, he'd be spending the next hour on the phone, trying to calm my paranoid ass down. He barely knew me, quickly grew annoyed and finally passed his cell to his roommate, who spent another 30 minutes quoting *The Brave Little Toaster*—which, somehow, actually did calm me down. Boy #1 told me he'd never smoke with me again. Boy #2 didn't have to say it; the look in his eyes told me I wouldn't be invited to their smoke seshes any time soon.

Man, how time changes things! Three years later, we were all roommates, our bongos had sweet-ass names like Barack O'Bonga,

and we could spot nares from a mile away. I would still get paranoid when I smoked, but not when we were all in our special safe place, our house, together.

After graduating from my small Southern university and moving to a big liberal city—where decriminalization is the norm—I realized that *where* I was smoking was affecting my paranoia as much as the *strain* I was smoking. In the Deep South, I could potentially spend years in jail for a joint; in my new city, I might get a ticket or community service.

For some reason, it lifted a weight off my shoulders. I think a lot of emphasis gets placed on which strains are better for paranoia, but I also I think it's important to remember that where you are and who you're with can also be major factors.

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**Contact  
High**

**THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY** *High Times* photographers have produced some epic, eye-popping pics over the years—like this beauty from our June 2009 cover shoot. This month, we highlight some of the most remarkable cannabis photography to ever appear in the pages of *High Times*. Story on page 76. Photo by Kent Sea















September 2017 *High Times*

**FROM SEED TO SMOKE** After 500 issues of *High Times* you still haven't grown your own at home? No problem. Turn to page 95 for 10 simple steps on how to create some tasty homegrown cannabis easily and effectively. *Photo by Nico Escondido*

19

**Contact  
High**



### Contact High

**500 ISSUES OF HIGH TIMES** To celebrate the magazine's fifth anniversary, *High Times* rented a plane and stuffed it to capacity with friends and weed (and other contraband). Looking at this photo, it's hard to believe the magazine lasted five years. Incredibly, it's lasted 43 years (and counting). This month, we're celebrating our 500th issue with a look back at the high history of the world's premier marijuana magazine. Story on page 52.



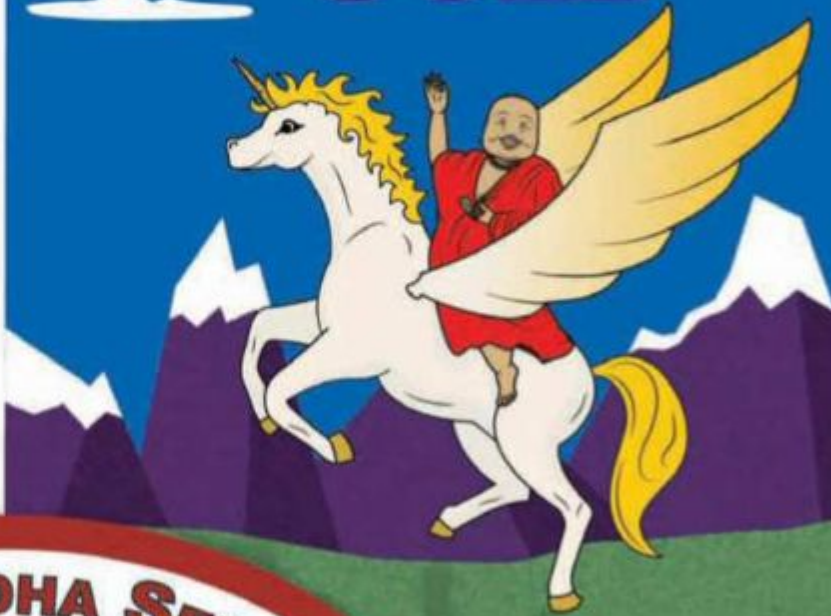




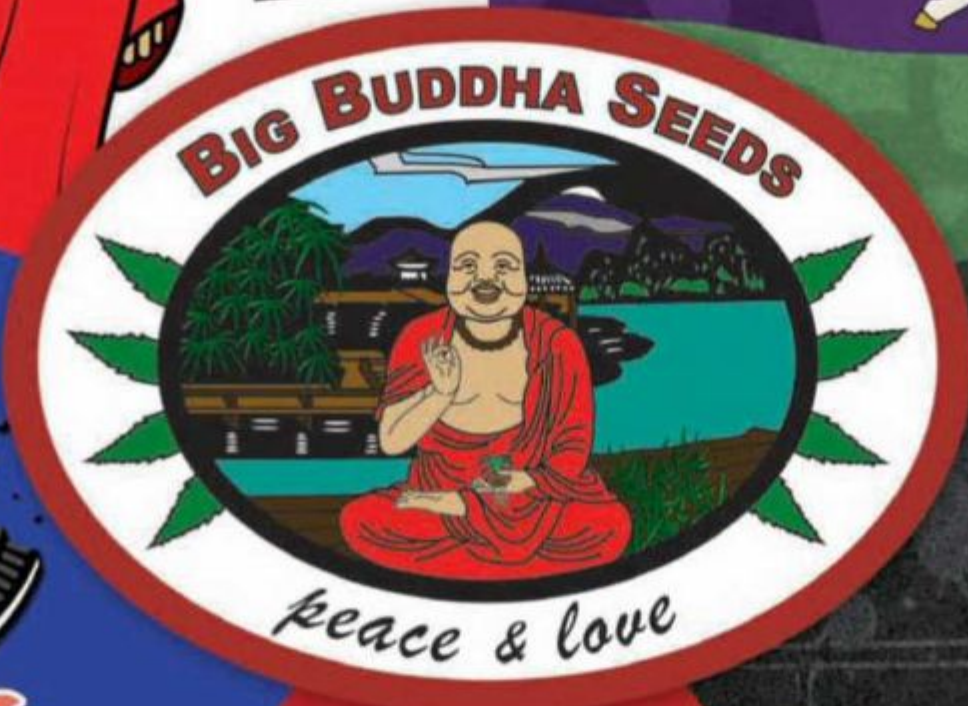


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“SHOUT OUTS”



**TOMMY CHONG**

“*High Times* and Cheech & Chong came into the world together. And we are both still as relevant today as we were then. Pot saves lives. Saved mine. Keep on smoking, HT.”



**LIL DEBBIE**

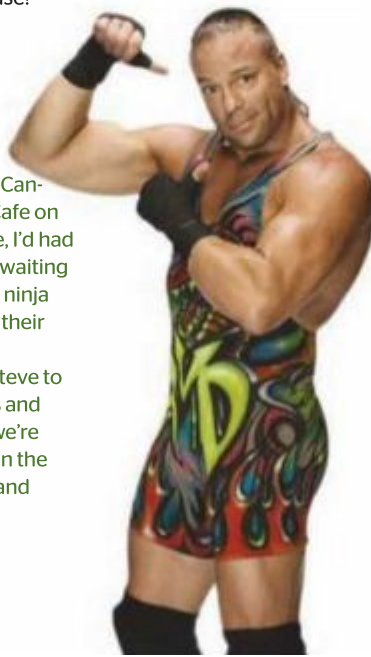
“One of my favorite *High Times* moments was the Cannabis Cup in 2015 in San Bernardino. I was asked to perform at the Cup, and at that same Cup was the debut of my Cakes edibles. I had my own booth, and we sold out within three hours. It was monumental on so many levels, being a part of the culture in both ways.”

**ROB VAN DAM**

“Congratulations, *High Times* magazine!! You’ve seen some changes in the world in 500 issues!

“My favorite HT moment is easy to pick. I’m in Jamaica for their first-ever Cannabis Cup in 2015, and my friend Steve wanted to jump off the cliff at Rick’s Cafe on the west side. We took a cab there, and it was a bit of a ride. After a short time, I’d had enough and was hoping to get out of there before the sun went down. I was waiting for my friend in line to jump—when Danny Danko appeared out of a cloud of ninja smoke and asked me if I wanted to catch a ride back to Seven Mile Beach on their boat, which I sure as fuck did!

“We had to hurry before the boat left, and there was a little pressure for Steve to get through the line and swim directly to the boat while we carried his shoes and shit, running for it ourselves, but it was sooo worth it! Fifteen minutes later, we’re all drinking and dabbing out on the boat, listening to reggae music blowing in the breeze and watching the sun drop down into the ocean. One of my favorite and most peaceful moments ever!! Thank you, *High Times*!! Keep crushing it!!”



**THE LUCAS BROS.**

“As the great Greek comic Aristophanes once quipped: ‘High thoughts must have high language.’ We’re not sure if he’s referring to weed, but we like to believe he was for the purposes of this quote. To our point: Without *High Times*, we’re not certain our current relaxed attitude towards weed culture would be possible. You’ve provided a platform for the voiceless, which is strange considering they’re voiceless—why do they need a platform? Trump and his minions don’t smoke weed, unfortunately. If they did, our guess is they’d be a lot less angry and war-crazed. Cocaine, oil and the blood of poor people seem like their drugs of choice. A pity. Nevertheless, please continue to contribute positively to the movement, and congratulations on becoming a necessary condition in the fight for legalization. You earned it.”



**JUICE FROM THE FLATBUSH ZOMBIES**

“We appreciate what *High Times* has done for cannabis culture throughout the years. From the magazine to the Cannabis Cup—you keep pushing the culture forward. In a digital era where most magazines or corporations can’t last, HT has endured. This is coming from a man that used to go out and buy issues every month on the newsstands. Now I get them sent to my house!”



**REDMAN**

[on appearing on his first *High Times* cover]

“I was knocking on y’all door... at that time, I seen Cypress Hill on the fucking cover. It was like the first rap group on the cover, and they had that goddamned green bud I never seen that was from Cali. I was like, ‘There’s something out there, another world that I’m not a part of,’ and y’all guys were the first ones to show that, to tie in the rap world with the marijuana world. I was like, ‘Something’s ‘bout to boil,’ and I had to be on the cover. That’s when I knocked on y’all door. I said, ‘I gotta be on it,’ and then I took my picture. I had my little blunt—I explained how to roll a blunt and everything. It was good.”



**SUSAN SARANDON**

“As mainstream culture catches up with *High Times*, this magazine goes from being a cult classic to a necessary read. Congratulations on your 500th issue.”



**REGGIE WATTS**

“I’m thankful for *High Times*’ existence, for bringing a mindfulness and awareness to cannabis culture. I believe that it’s been an important resource, and a constant for people who believe in the movement for more than just recreational use, but for the holistic, medicinal benefits of the plant.”

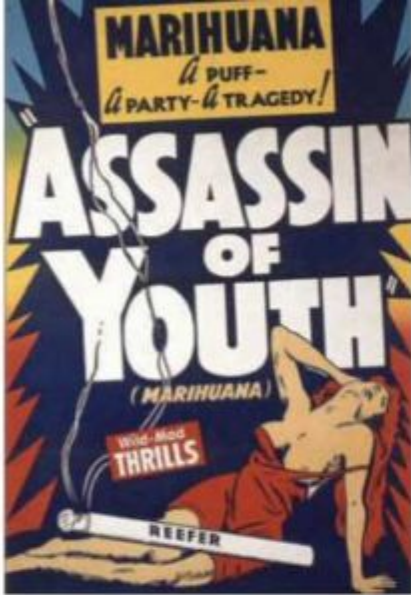


**WAYNE COYNE**

[on the October 1977 issue featuring Johnny Rotten and the Sex Pistols]

“I would never have connected the Sex Pistols and pot like *High Times* did, you know what I mean? But somehow *High Times* were champions of it. And reggae music and Bob Marley, and then suddenly the Sex Pistols and other kinds of radical music at the time—I definitely remember that, and that had a little bit of a ‘wow.’ I thought it was cool, but I thought HT was a strange champion for that sort of thing. It seemed like the hippies were over there—you know, with Art Crumb and growing weed or whatever—and punk rock would be over here. And yet the Rasta connection and *High Times* was where they all met on the other side.”





## High Timeline

**The Marihuana Tax Act** was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt on August 2, 1937, officially launching the United States into its misguided war on cannabis. That war will turn 80 years old this summer. In that time, the federal government has engaged in a series of despicable propaganda efforts to keep pot prohibition in place. But every step of the way, marijuana-law reformers have fought to set the record straight. Below is a brief timeline detailing the highs and lows in the world of weed, from the dawn of reefer madness to the present day.

**1930:** The Federal Bureau of Narcotics is established, giving anti-pot crusader Harry Anslinger increasingly broad powers to go after cannabis users. Anslinger and the FBN begin a propaganda campaign to turn public opinion against marijuana.

**1942:** With the United States entering World War II, the US government launches its “Hemp for Victory” campaign, encouraging farmers to grow cannabis’s cousin in order to produce necessities for the war effort.

**1943:** Marijuana-related drugs are removed from pharmacies and become no longer available for medical use.

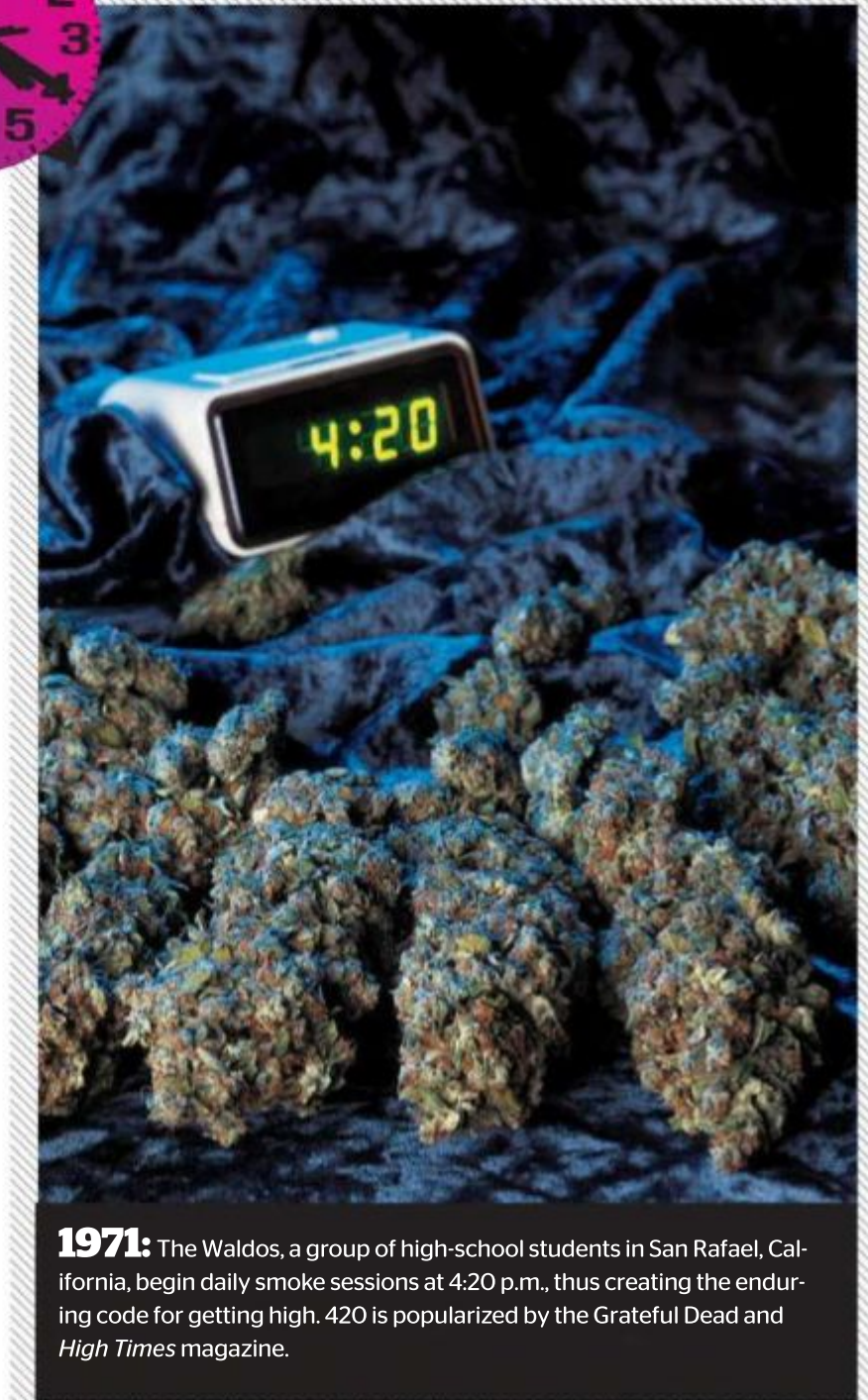
**1944:** The La Guardia Report, commissioned by New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, is released. It debunks the federal government’s claims that cannabis use causes insanity, criminal behavior and dependency. The report also shoots down Anslinger’s theory that marijuana is a gateway drug.



**1937:** The Marihuana Tax Act, drafted by Anslinger, is passed by Congress. The law effectively makes recreational marijuana possession illegal and ushers in the era of pot prohibition.



**1951:** The Boggs Act, introduced by Representative Hale Boggs, a Democrat from Louisiana, is passed by Congress. It defines marijuana as a narcotic and establishes mandatory minimum sentences for pot possession.



**1971:** The Waldos, a group of high-school students in San Rafael, California, begin daily smoke sessions at 4:20 p.m., thus creating the enduring code for getting high. 420 is popularized by the Grateful Dead and *High Times* magazine.

**1966:** Israeli scientist Dr. Raphael Mechoulam isolates marijuana’s psychoactive compound, delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, better known as THC. Mechoulam also was the first to synthesize THC.

**1970:** Congress passes the Controlled Substances Act. The CSA replaces the Marihuana Tax Act, which was ruled unconstitutional thanks to a lawsuit filed by psychedelic guru Timothy Leary. The CSA establishes schedules for drugs and places marijuana in Schedule I—the most restrictive category, for drugs with the highest potential for abuse and no accepted medical use.



**1970:** The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) is founded by DC attorney Keith Stroup (pictured above with Hunter S. Thompson).





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**1971:** Cheech & Chong release their debut album, featuring the classic stoner-comedy routine “Dave’s Not Here.”

**1971:** Dr. Lester Grinspoon of Harvard Medical School publishes his groundbreaking work, *Marihuana Reconsidered*.

**1972:** NORML launches the first lawsuit to have marijuana rescheduled under the CSA.

**1972:** The first Hash Bash is held in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



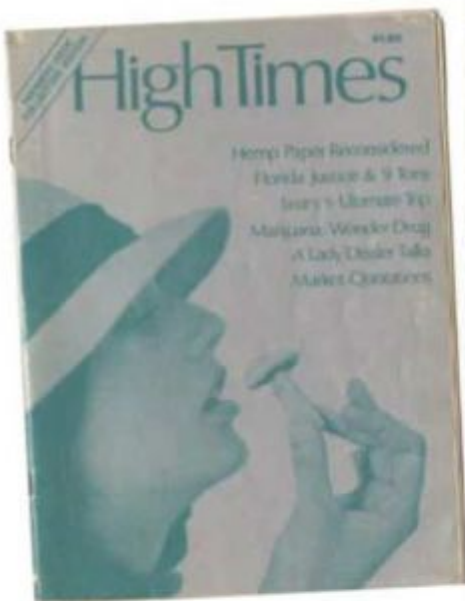
**1973:** President Richard Nixon launches the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to enforce the Controlled Substances Act.



**1985:** Pro-cannabis crusader Jack Herer publishes his underground classic, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*.



**1999:** In the August issue of *High Times*, cultivation reporter Kyle Kushman writes the first “Annual Hydro Report,” inaugurating an *HT* tradition of highlighting the best hydro systems and related products that continues to this day.



**1974:** The first issue of *High Times* hits the newsstands.

**1976:** Under an experimental program, Bob Randall becomes the first legal medical marijuana patient in the US since 1937. Randall, a glaucoma sufferer, was supplied with 300 grams of cannabis per month by the federal government.



**1988:** The first High Times Cannabis Cup is held in Amsterdam.

**1981:** The Reagan administration focuses the efforts of federal prosecutors on marijuana cases, ushering in the modern War on Drugs.

**1985:** Nancy Reagan launches her “Just Say No” campaign.

**1985:** The Food and Drug Administration approves Marinol, a synthetic version of THC, for medicinal use. Marinol becomes a Schedule III drug under the CSA; marijuana remains in Schedule I.

**1988:** The Office of National Drug Control Policy—a.k.a. the Drug Czar—is established.

**1989:** The DEA launches Operation Green Merchant, targeting indoor cannabis cultivators who purchase supplies from the hydroponic and seed companies advertising in *High Times*.

**1993:** Dr. Lester Grinspoon publishes his second seminal book on cannabis, *Marihuana: The Forbidden Medicine*.

**1996:** California becomes the first state to enact a medical marijuana law after voters approve Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act. This landmark initiative kicks off the modern medical cannabis movement.





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**2002:** The US Court of Appeals rules that the federal government cannot revoke doctors' licenses for recommending medical cannabis.

**2003:** Operation Pipe Dreams targets hundreds of businesses selling pot paraphernalia. Tommy Chong is sentenced to nine months in federal prison.

**2010:** The first High Times US Medical Cannabis Cup is held in San Francisco.

**2011:** The DEA officially rejects a 2002 request to reschedule marijuana, stating that cannabis has "no accepted medical use."

**2012:** Colorado and Washington become the first states to legalize the sale and possession of cannabis for recreational use.

**2012:** DEA head Michele Leonhart refuses to admit that marijuana is less harmful than crack or heroin during her congressional testimony.

**2013:** The Justice Department's Cole memo instructs federal prosecutors to shift their focus from enforcing pot prohibition in states that have legalized medical or recreational marijuana.

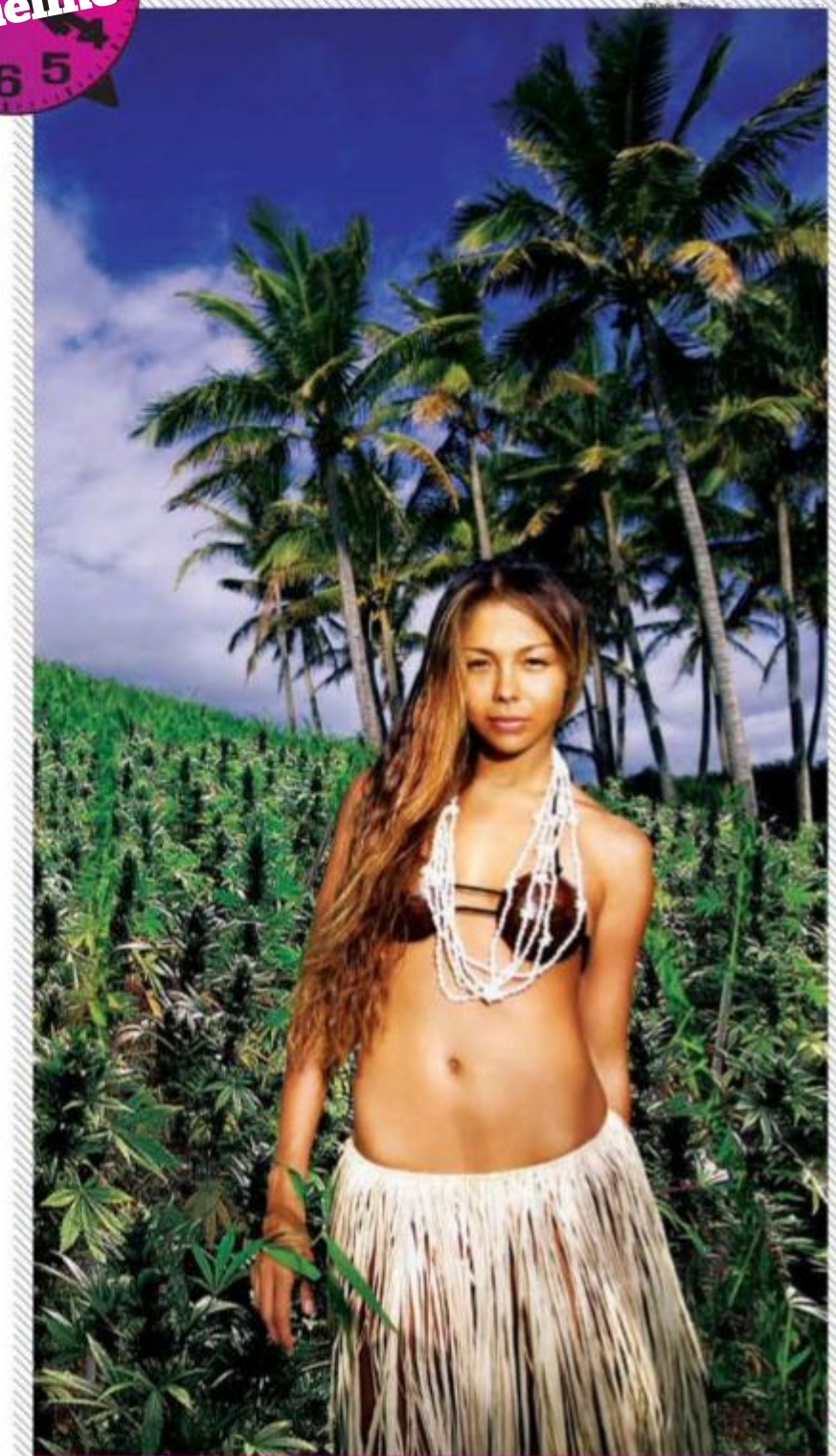
**2013:** For the first time, a majority of Americans (58 percent) support legalizing marijuana, up from just 12 percent in 1969.



**2009:** Under President Barack Obama, the Department of Justice issues the Ogden memorandum, which instructs federal prosecutors not to target patients and caregivers who are in compliance with state medical marijuana laws.



**2017:** President Donald Trump picks Senator Jeff Sessions as the new US attorney general. Sessions orders federal prosecutors to return to the policy of seeking maximum penalties for drug crimes, including cannabis.



**2000:** Hawaii legalizes medical cannabis, becoming the first state to do so through its legislature rather than via a voter initiative.

**2014:** President Obama signs a measure barring the Justice Department from spending money to enforce federal marijuana laws in states that have legalized medical cannabis.

**2014:** Alaska, Oregon and the District of Columbia legalize recreational pot.

**2016:** The DEA rejects two petitions seeking to reschedule marijuana under the CSA.

**2016:** The federal government drops its civil asset-forfeiture suit against California's Harborside Health Center after a four-year legal battle.

**2016:** California, Nevada, Maine and Massachusetts legalize recreational marijuana.





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# Highwitness News

Willie Nelson for president!



## Style

### Double Barrel

This slick brass-knuckles style dual vape will make you want to put a double barrel in your mouth. p.38



## Entertainment

### Pixies

Eighties indie-rockers the Pixies are back with a bunch of new material and a new tour. p.40



## Kansas's Cannabis Crackdown

The battle over buds crossing the border from Colorado is heating up. *By Dave Lindorff*

**Kansas has a growing drug problem.** It's got some of the toughest marijuana laws in the nation, backed by a political system dominated by hardline conservatives unwilling to even consider legalizing medical marijuana. Yet the state is filled with folks of all political stripes who enjoy smoking weed.

As a result, Kansas law-enforcement agencies over the years have devoted considerable resources to busting drug smugglers and casual users, many of whom end up clogging the state's jails—and all this at a time when Kansas faces a rapidly growing budget deficit because its governor and legislature keep cutting taxes.

Things have also gotten more challenging for Kansas police lately, because the marijuana is no longer coming from Mexico through Texas and Oklahoma, as it used to. Now it's coming across the state's western border with its neighbor, Colorado.

A survey of marijuana busts by the state's law-enforcement organizations, including the Kansas Highway Patrol, was completed late last year by the office of State Attorney General Derek Schmidt. Writing in the fall of 2016, Schmidt noted that Colorado's 2014 legalization of recreational marijuana had led to increasing amounts of cannabis being bought

legally there for (illegal) sale or use in Kansas.

The survey, which sounds at times like an advertisement for the high quality of weed from the Rocky Mountain State, was conducted to ascertain just how big a problem Colorado pot was becoming in "dry" Kansas. The survey's conclusion: "While some jurisdictions reported an increase in overall levels of marijuana crimes, the major effect of Colorado marijuana 'legalization' appears to be that high grade marijuana from Colorado has to a large extent replaced lower grade marijuana from Mexico and home grown marijuana. Numerous jurisdictions also reported a significant rise in the availability of marijuana edibles and other marijuana products, such as waxes and oils, originating from Colorado."

In 2013, before Colorado legalized marijuana, most of the pot seized by Kansas cops originated in Mexico. By 2015, however, 69 percent of the seizures—a total of nearly a ton—were of pot and cannabis products known to have been purchased in Colorado. That number represented an increase of about 18 percent over 2014. The pace picked up in 2016, with the attorney general's report noting that during the first six months of last year, the Highway Patrol alone "conducted 102 significant seizures of marijuana believed to have an origin of Colorado and seized over 1,259 pounds of marijuana during those incidents." The report goes on to note that because the Highway Patrol only tracks "significant seizures," the total number of busts and seizures of suspected Colorado pot and pot products "is likely much higher."

"For example," the AG report explains, "while the Dodge City Police Department was only able to report one confirmed case of Colorado marijuana, the best guess of its narcotics detectives is that approximately 90% of all marijuana seized in Dodge City comes from Colorado. The Topeka Police Department provided a similar response, reporting only



« seven confirmed cases but explaining that ‘most of our high grade marijuana is coming from the State of Colorado.’ Furthermore, since the Colorado law change in 2014 we are consistently seeing higher grade marijuana. Prior to 2014, it was somewhat uncommon to find a lot of ‘high grade’ marijuana. We know from training and experience that the Colorado marijuana farms can create a marijuana bud with a much higher THC content, which is preferred by the users.”

NORML national-outreach director Kevin Mahmalji, who is based in Colorado, says there is little that marijuana consumers in Kansas and other neighboring states can do to protect themselves from arrest when they buy safe, legal cannabis in Colorado to bring back home for their own use. “The police just need probable cause to search a vehicle without a warrant, and so after they pull someone over for an alleged slow lane change or a failure to signal or something, they can say they smelled marijuana and then search your car. They can make that up because, if they find pot, in court it would be the cop’s word against the driver’s.”

And thanks to Kansas’s continued embrace of the Drug War, the results of bringing legal Colorado pot into the

**“Prior to 2014, it was somewhat uncommon to find a lot of ‘high grade’ marijuana. We know from training and experience that the Colorado marijuana farms can create a marijuana bud with a much higher THC content, which is preferred by the users.”**

state can be downright deadly. Several years ago, two sisters—Brenda Sewell, 58, and Joy Biggs, 54—were driving back to their home in Kansas City, Missouri, with some marijuana purchased for use by Brenda, who suffered from several painful autoimmune diseases like fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis, as well as hepatitis C. Busted by Kansas Highway Patrol officers, Brenda and Joy were placed in a Sherman County lock-up. There, Brenda’s prescription meds were confiscated along with her marijuana. When Brenda began to go into seizures without her medication, prison authorities delayed calling for an ambulance until it was too late. Despite the efforts by Joy and other inmates to revive her, Brenda died on the floor of her cell.

The irony of a policy that busts Kansans like Sewell and Biggs for buying Colorado marijuana, Mahmalji says, “is that it’ll end up causing people to turn back to Mexican suppliers. And at least the Colorado pot is funding schools

instead of drug cartels.”

Jessica Kelly, a Kansas resident and marijuana-legalization activist who sits on the board of the NORML chapter in Kansas City, Missouri (there is no NORML chapter in Kansas), says she has little hope of Kansas seeing the light and legalizing even medical marijuana anytime soon. “The most we’ve been able to do,” she says, “is to get the state legislators in Kansas to reduce a first-time marijuana-possession arrest from a Class A to a Class B felony—which still carries a sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.”

Nor does Kelly expect the wave of arrests of people bringing back weed from Colorado to end. “Targeting people traveling on I-70 is profitable for law enforcement because of our nation’s lax asset-forfeiture laws,” she says. And it’s something that’s especially attractive to the conservative lawmakers in a state like Kansas, which is currently experiencing a deep (and self-inflicted) budget crisis. 🌱

## HIGH FIVE

### Go Green

Legalizing cannabis and hemp can help stem the tide of global warming.



#### Absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>

Global warming is linked to increased concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere, which, per NASA, is at its highest level in 400,000 years. Fortunately, plants absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and produce oxygen via photosynthesis. It’s been reported that each ton of hemp grown absorbs 1.63 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. A nationwide hemp-growing program could help neutralize carbon emissions.



#### Ending Deforestation

Not only do trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, but cutting them down releases more CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Per *Scientific American*, deforestation accounts for 15 percent of global warming—more than cars and trucks combined (14 percent). Trees also take 25 to 30 years to harvest. It’s time to stop chopping them down and start growing fields of hemp for wood and paper products.



#### Better Fuel

Don’t believe those biased petroleum-industry-backed studies claiming that ethanol, which can be made from fermented hemp stalks, increases CO<sub>2</sub> levels. A 2012 study from Argonne National Lab found that using high-level ethanol-blended fuels like E85—85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline—reduces greenhouse-gas emissions by as much as 48 percent.



#### Replacing Plastic

Roughly 6 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> are generated for every kilogram of plastic manufactured and incinerated. Buffalo Hemp Co. is currently using hemp to produce products like flowerpots and trays, and CEO Denver Mackintosh plans to use hemp to replace more traditional plastic products like single-use utensils and pill bottles by 2018 in hopes of reducing plastic’s carbon footprint.



#### Cutting Illegal-Grow Emissions

Illegal indoor ganja gardens generate 15 metric tons of carbon emissions annually, equal to the pollution produced by three million cars. Cultivating 1 kilo of cannabis using gas generators to stay off the electrical grid is the equivalent of driving across the country five times. The legalization and regulation of cannabis would create a robust measure of control over pot’s carbon footprint.



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## Help Wanted

As *High Times* went to press for our August issue, it seemed certain that President Trump would appoint US Representative Tom Marino, a Republican from Pennsylvania, as director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)—a.k.a. the Drug Czar.

However, as Marino was in the process of completing his paperwork for the position, the news broke that he would not be appointed Drug Czar after all.

While the White House wouldn't say why Marino was taken out of the running, the decision came after issues about the congressman's past surfaced, including accusations that he went "judge shopping" as a county prosecutor in 1998 to win an acquittal for a friend facing felony cocaine-trafficking charges. Marino, for his part, claims that he couldn't take the job due to an illness in his family.

Days after Marino lost the Drug Czar gig, the White House proposed slashing the ONDCP's budget by 95 percent, from \$388 million to \$24 million, axing 33 staff members in the process. However, after political pressure from the GOP, Trump reversed course, settling on proposing a mere 5 percent cut.

## VT Gov Nixes Pot Bill

Vermont Governor Phil Scott has vetoed a bill that would have made his state the ninth in the country—and the third in New England—to legalize recreational marijuana. The Vermont legislature passed the bill after voters in neighboring Massachusetts and Maine approved recreational pot laws last November.

Vermont's marijuana measure would have legalized the possession and cultivation of small amounts of cannabis for those 21 and over. Though Scott rejected the bill, he has stated that he isn't philosophically opposed to legal weed and claims to be willing to work with the state's lawmakers. "We must get this right," Scott said. "I think we need to move a little bit slower." This was, doubtless, of little comfort to Ben & Jerry.

Hopefully, Scott—a Republican—can work out a compromise with the Democrat-controlled legislature. After all, according to the state's Health Department, Vermonters are among the heaviest marijuana consumers in the country. And no one should go to jail for possessing pot.

## POLICE PICK A PECK OF POT- STUFFED PEPPERS



Despite going up against the greatest legal marijuana-growing industry the world has ever seen, Mexican cartels persist in their creative, often humorous attempts to clandestinely export an inferior product to the United States.

Past failed attempts have included hiding bundles of bud in limes and watermelons and even dressing up bags of pot to look like carrots (sort of). This May, smugglers once again went with the hide-the-pot-in-some-produce plan, packing a shipment of peppers with over 13,700 pounds of marijuana.

Unfortunately for the smugglers, the plan was foiled by US Customs and Border Protection agents, who confiscated the cannabis—with an estimated value of nearly \$7 million—at the Nogales-Mariposa Port of Entry.

Unfazed by the scent of the bell peppers, drug dogs quickly sniffed out the stash, after which the driver of the tractor-trailer—a 46-year-old Mexican national—was taken into custody.

The Red Headed Stranger is still smoking.



## The Wit and Wisdom of Willie Nelson

A *Rolling Stone* interview celebrating singer-songwriter-stoner Willie Nelson's 84th birthday provided the legendary musician with an opportunity to offer some sage advice to US Attorney General Jeff Sessions: Light up and leave us stoners alone.

When informed by interviewer Patrick Doyle that, according to Sessions, cannabis is "only slightly less awful" than heroin, Nelson replied in his inimitable style: "I wonder if he's tried both of them. I don't think you can really make a statement like that unless you tried it all. So I'd like to suggest to Jeff to try it and then let me know later if he thinks he's still telling the truth!"

Nelson also weighed in on Sessions's boss, telling *Rolling Stone* that "I think [Trump] stepped into a different world. Like he said this morning, 'I had no idea this job was going to be this hard.' It's easy when you can just go bankrupt anytime you want to and say, 'I'll check you later.' But that's hard to do when you're president of the United States."

Asked if there was a downside to consuming cannabis every day, Nelson quipped, "I haven't run into any yet. I guess if you go somewhere where it's illegal, that's a pretty good downside."

Willie Nelson, needless to say, is a goddamn national treasure. Unfortunately, he won't be running for office anytime soon: Nelson explained that he actually "came close a couple times. And then I sobered up." But at 84 years old, the red headed stranger is still going strong. He released his 61st studio album, *God's Problem Child*, this spring and will be touring with Bob Dylan in the summer.

## Sessions Gets Dumb on Crime

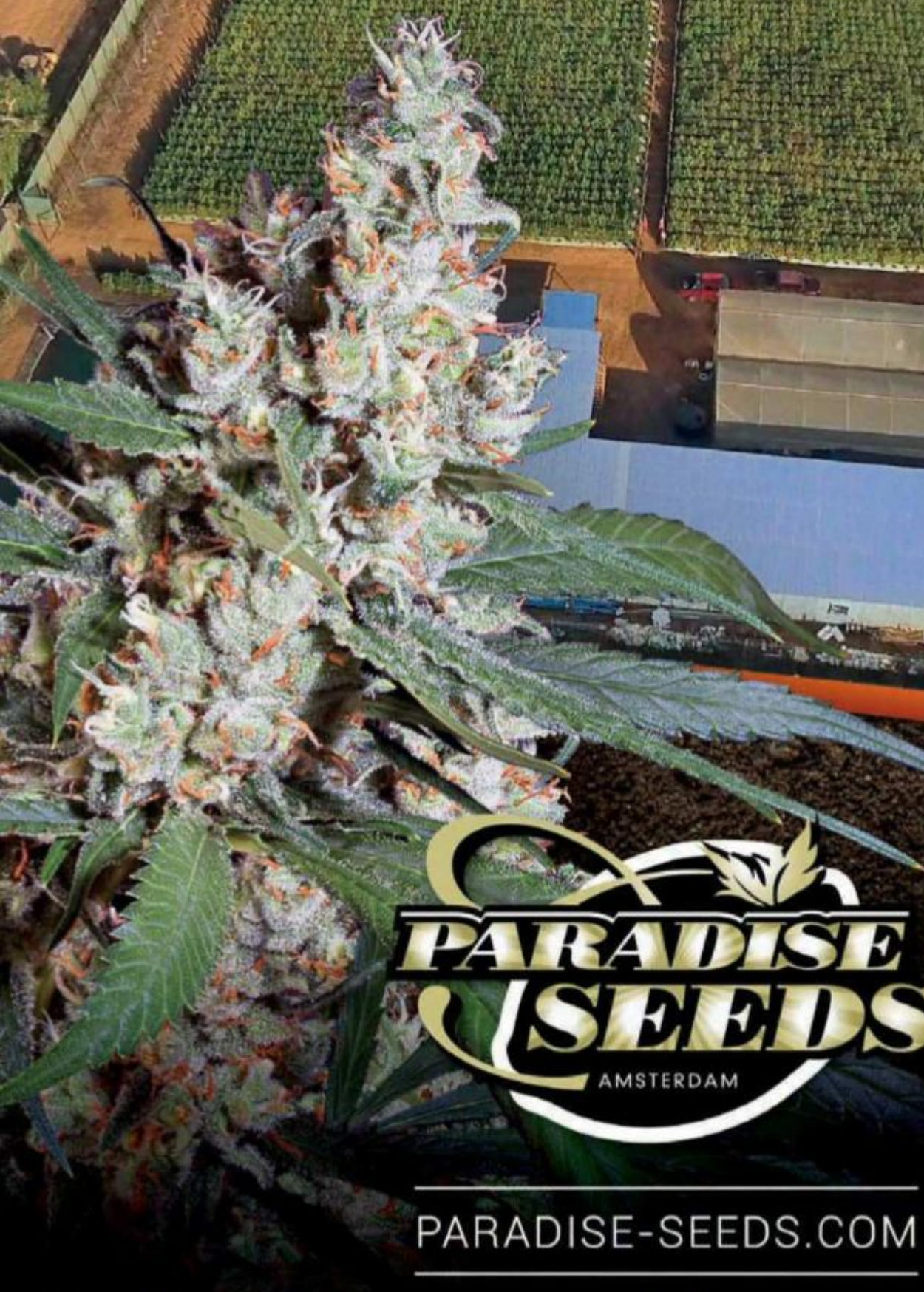
It took years under the Obama administration to begin to unravel the country's insane and inhumane treatment of drug crimes—but it took less than four months for the Trump administration to completely undo those gains and regress to the dark days of prohibition, when low-level drug convictions carried excessive penalties.

On May 10, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions sent a memo to federal prosecutors ordering them to return to the practice of seeking maximum punishments for drug offenses. The memo directs prosecutors to file "the most serious, readily provable" charges that carry the harshest penalties, including mandatory-minimum sentences.

Former AG Eric Holder—who crafted the reforms that enabled judges to avoid mandatory minimums—blasted his successor's decision. "The policy announced today is not tough on crime. It's dumb on crime," Holder said. "It is an ideologically motivated, cookie-cutter approach that has only been proven to generate unfairly long sentences that are often applied indiscriminately and do little to achieve long-term public safety."



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Deputy City Attorney compares pot to pedophilia.

## Have You No Shame?

When it comes to anti-pot rhetoric, we here at *High Times* are a bit desensitized: So many pundits and politicians say such stupid things about cannabis that you really have to break new ground to get our attention. Remarkably, Miami Deputy City Attorney Barnaby Min managed to do just that when he dropped one of the most certifiably insane cannabis-related comments in recent memory.

During a Miami zoning-board meeting this May, a member asked Min for an update on the regulations to establish medical marijuana dispensaries in Florida's largest city. According to the *Miami Herald*, Min snidely replied, "I'm happy to make it very easy. It's not allowed."

Florida voters legalized medical cannabis in November 2016, so the question was completely appropriate. But Min was determined to shut the issue down, and so he continued with this incredibly bizarre statement: "If the city of Miami for some infinite, God-forbidden reason thought having sex with a child was a great way to recover from some issue, and so we wrote it into our city code, just because the city says it's legal does not mean it's legal. So just because, for marijuana, we say marijuana is legal and the state says it's legal, until the federal government says it's legal, it is not legal."

Yes, Miami's deputy city attorney decided to compare legalizing medical marijuana to legalizing pedophilia.

According to *Miami New Times*, Min's comment was met with several seconds of "extremely awkward silence." Perhaps those present were attempting to figure out if that meant Min would be open to supporting pedophilia as long as the Feds said it was legal.

The next day, City Commissioner Ken Russell offered a much more rational response to the issue, confirming that his staff is in the process of crafting regulations and eventually sponsoring legislation to create dispensaries in Miami.

## PARTY PIGEONS



Authorities in Kuwait busted a pigeon carrying nearly 200 pills when it landed on a building near the Iraq border. Kuwaiti cops had apparently been tracking the pigeon as it made its contraband run from Iraq. The pigeon was wearing a tiny backpack that contained 178 ecstasy pills (although a BBC report claims the pills were ketamine). The pigeon happened to land near Kuwait's customs department and officials were on hand to snatch the little smuggler up.

While Kuwaiti customs officers have been on to the homing pigeon smuggling scheme for some time, this is the first bird they've caught riding dirty. However, there are reports of pigeons busted in the act of flying small amounts of cocaine and pot into prisons in Costa Rica and Colombia.

We've gotta say, this certainly puts a damper on Trump's declaration that a border wall with Mexico will "stop the drugs."



Carl Long's ride before Veedverks' logo was removed

## NASCAR Pulls Pot Logo

What should have been a marijuana milestone—a cannabis company's logo appearing on a NASCAR vehicle for the first time—became a disappointment when the decal for Colorado vape-maker Veedverks was stripped from Carl Long's No. 66 car at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City on May 12.

The Veedverks logo was removed from the hood of Long's ride during an inspection prior to the Go Bowling 400 race being held that weekend. It was Long's first NASCAR appearance in eight years, following a lengthy suspension.

The actual reason for the logo's removal remains shrouded in some mystery, since Long posted on Facebook after the race that he had personally misspelled "Veedverks" when submitting it for approval, presumably forcing NASCAR to take the logo off or be liable for misrepresenting a sponsor.

Yet the Associated Press originally reported that NASCAR officials pulled the Veedverks logo because it had never been vetted or approved in the first place. NASCAR said the logo was removed because it violated rules governing sponsorship and paint schemes.

## Cops Banned From Alaskan Pot Shops

Voters in Alaska legalized recreational marijuana in 2014, but despite pot's legal status, the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) recently opted to "send a loud and clear message" to officers that any kind of involvement with cannabis is "incompatible with the law enforcement profession." That includes cops who wish to own or operate legal retail-marijuana shops.

The zero-tolerance mandate came down after word spread that some Alaskan cops were contemplating joining the green rush and moonlighting for cannabis companies.

APSC executive director Bob Griffiths explained that because marijuana is still illegal under federal law, the council decided that "anyone engaging in [a marijuana business] would lack good moral character." Griffiths noted that officers were still free to open a bar or a liquor store, because booze doesn't conflict with federal law or the APSC's fairly dubious moral standards.



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Pixies, L-R: Paz Lenchantin, David Lovering, Joey Santiago, Black Francis

## Here Comes Your Band

The reunited Pixies have been together longer than they were as a band in the 1980s and '90s, but the influential outfit is keeping it fresh with new songs and a tour without a set list. *By Kirsten Ferguson*

**For the Pixies**, 2011 was a turning point. By then, the offbeat indie-rock band had been together again for seven years after reuniting in 2004, when they set aside the acrimonious feelings of their 1993 breakup to reprise such gloriously quirky songs as “Monkey Gone to Heaven” and “Here Comes Your Man.”

In the years following their dissolution, the Pixies’ stature in the music world only seemed to grow, with bands from Nirvana to Weezer acknowledging an influence. So when the Pixies got back together, fans were ready. Shows for the resulting reunion tour sold out in minutes, and the Pixies found themselves playing rapturously received sets at major music festivals like Lollapalooza and Coachella.

But by 2011, they’d been touring for seven years without any new material. “It was surreal to realize we had been

together longer [post-reunion] than we were initially a band,” says drummer David Lovering over the phone from his home in California’s Santa Ynez Valley. That was the impetus for the Pixies’ writing and releasing their first post-reunion music, which became the album *Indie Cindy*.

Unfortunately, the drive to produce new songs coincided with the announcement by bassist Kim Deal—a much-beloved figure among fans—that she was leaving the group. “It was such a loss,” Lovering says of Deal’s departure to release solo material and play with her other band, The Breeders. “All we could do was wish her well.”

2017 finds the Pixies in a good place, though. The oft-reported tension between Deal and front man Black Francis is gone, and current bass player Paz Lenchantin is a “joy to be around. She’s now a full-fledged Pixie,” Lovering says.

“We’re very lucky to have her.”

The Pixies’ latest album, 2016’s *Head Carrier*, is a return to the classic noise-pop/punk sound of their earlier work. “Beal’s Back” revisits the hard-edged squall of older head-bangers like *Trompe le Monde*’s “Planet of Sound,” while “Classic Masher” is a straight-up surf-pop song with typically absurdist lyrics.

“We’re really fortunate to have a second chance to do this,” Lovering says. “We love what we’re doing; we’re just going to wash, rinse and repeat now. We feel we’re a viable band—we can play and do new music—and that’s why we keep doing what we’re doing.”

**“We’re really fortunate to have a second chance to do this. We love what we’re doing; we’re just going to wash, rinse and repeat now.”**

The Pixies will spend this summer playing festivals overseas before returning to the US for dates on the East Coast, in the Midwest and in Canada over the fall. To keep things fresh, they plan to go onstage every night not knowing what songs they’ll do. Aside from a handful of must-play tunes, each concert’s set list will be spontaneously decided on the spot by the band. “We know what the first song is, and after that we’ll just wing it,” Lovering says. “We have a master list of 70 songs, and we’ll pick and choose each song as we go along.”

When he’s not on tour, Lovering likes to indulge in his two favorite hobbies: prospecting for coins and other historical artifacts using a metal detector, and working on magic tricks. With a degree in electrical engineering, Lovering has performed physics-based experiments onstage as the Scientific Phenomenalist, although he currently does his magic tricks only backstage or in private.

Lovering finds that weed is enormously helpful to his creative process. “I’ve smoked since I was in high school,” he says. “Whether I’m building electronic circuits or practicing magic, I find it very inventive and helpful. I think marijuana sparks me to think a certain way—it gives me a little more drive to be imaginative.” ✨



### Legalized Convenience

California’s Proposition 64, which legalized recreational weed in 2016, has made smoking in the Golden State much more convenient. “I no longer have to call a guy up,” Lovering says.



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Seeing through the eyes of the young

## No Office for Wayne Coyne

The Flaming Lips frontman eschews mundane reality. *By Mary Jane Gibson*

**Wayne Coyne** wants to know why *High Times* has an office. Reclining on his tour bus in downtown Los Angeles a few hours before The Flaming Lips take to the stage to perform their latest studio album, *Oczy Mlody*, he muses about the notion of going to an office. For a rock star who bounces around in giant hamster balls, pastes jewels on his cheekbones and has been making music full-time for 30-plus years, it seems truly incomprehensible. “I don’t even understand the concept of it anyway,” Coyne says earnestly. “Why have a place?”

I explain that we need a place for staff meetings, but Coyne is having none of it. Even my “But it has a rooftop deck!” doesn’t move him. “Why does there have to be a place where everybody goes?” he demands.

Why, indeed? Life for Wayne Coyne is lived fully on his terms. He gestures at the “*Oui/Non*” shirt I’m wearing and says, “You have this T-shirt on...” In response to the implied question, I ask if he knows about the results of the French presidential election, which came in the night before. He does not, he says. “When you’re out playing different cities and all that shit, you just don’t watch TV or know the news.”

Not having to go to an office and not knowing the news sounds just about perfect. Not that he doesn’t care: Coyne wonders about the impact of the French election results. He’s also worried about how voters think in the US. “We have this daily reminder of how we’ve collectively thought, ‘Oh, you know, we don’t have to worry about this,’” he says.

“Yet why is our country being run by some retarded racist asshole that we all hate? This is the world we made. How did this happen?”

“What do you think?” I ask, while studying the smudge of dark eyeliner on his lower lids and admiring the cool leather holster thing strapped across his lean frame. Coyne sighs. “I think we underestimated the power of Middle America voting,” he says. “I still know actual people that are like, ‘Yeah, man, I care, but I don’t vote.’ And you’re like, ‘What do you mean, you don’t vote?’” Coyne deems Barack

**“Drugs never really worked for Coyne, he says: ‘I’m pretty optimistic and fearless when I’m not fucked up.’”**

Obama a rock star, and our conversation soon falls down a rabbit hole to Ted Nugent and right-wing politics, and *Cat Scratch Fever*, and Cat Stevens... “Too many cats in this conversation,” Coyne suddenly pronounces. We move on.

The genesis of The Flaming Lips’ metaphysical brand of neo-psychedelic pop rock clearly lies in their charismatic front man. Wayne Coyne is curious, and opinionated. He has a playful, what’s-weird-is-cool sensibility that many men his age have left behind.

Coyne remembers *High Times* being around back when he was a kid. He even sold pot for a little while in the late ’70s. But drugs never really worked for him. “When I [feel] intensified, I just think everybody’s a monster that’s gonna kill me, and chaos is not safety to me.” Perhaps he already operates at a level that some people need psychedelics or weed to get to? Maybe so, he says: “I’m pretty optimistic and fearless when I’m not fucked up.”

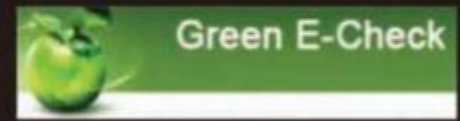
After we photograph Coyne in the alley behind the Ace Theater, I shake his hand and thank him for his time. His eyes twinkle. “Good luck with the office,” he offers, and then strides away, sunlight glinting in his silver hair—a long, loping figure of a man who’s never had a desk job, and never, ever will. ✨



### Do You Realize?

“Death is a beautiful, natural inevitability,” says Coyne. “I think drug experiences open up something of that deepness. That shit’s hard to get to unless you’re a really great meditator, but they allow that to happen within the chaos of your life sometimes.”





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John, Paul, George and Ringo reached new heights while recording *Sgt. Pepper's*.

## You're Such a Lovely Audience

The act you've known for all these years celebrates its 50th anniversary.

1967 was the “Summer of Drugs” for The Beatles, and their creative apogee of inventive sounds and ambitious themes, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, was informed by psychoactive agents like cannabis and LSD (John Lennon showed up for one of the sessions tripping balls), which they celebrated in the music, song titles and lyrics—the first to be printed on an LP.

Everything about *Pepper* represents an altered state intended to blow minds: the “celebrity funeral” album cover (although that “pot plant” isn't really weed); the innovative recording techniques of producer George Martin; and Paul McCartney's essential concept of shifting The Beatles' identity to become the Lonely Hearts Club Band.



**The Beatles**  
*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band—50th Anniversary*  
(Capitol)

“I get high with a little help from my friends,” Ringo Starr famously croons, while Lennon yearns “I'd love to turn you on” during the closing masterpiece “A Day in the Life,” the rock operetta with an “orchestral orgasm” that inspired prog explorations forevermore.

Cocaine was also a part of making *Pepper*: McCartney used it in combination with weed to get through the all-nighters at Abbey Road studios. Paul was the last Beatle to drop acid, but he was the first to snort.

Lennon's lysergic “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” spells out “L-S-D,” but the song's inspiration was a drawing by his son Julian—though McCartney confirmed that the fantasy lyrics were intentionally crafted to occupy a psychedelic headspace.

*Pepper* also reflected the 1960s “generation gap” in songs like Paul's “She's Leaving Home” and anti-cynical “Fixing a Hole,” as well as George Harrison's raga rant, “Within You, Without You.”

Unbelievably, *Pepper* could have been even better: The twin classics “Strawberry Fields Forever” and “Penny Lane” were pulled prematurely for a single by an impatient EMI/Capitol Records, which has now wisely reissued the album in its majestic entirety for its 50th birthday. *Mark Miller*

## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



**Biters**  
*The Future Ain't What It Used to Be*  
(Earache)

➤ The second full-length LP from these hot-eyed Southern miscreants finds them biting deep into the lixx and stixx trixx of '70s glam stompers T. Rex, Sweet and Mud, while retaining a hard-rock sheen all their own. Standouts that'll have ya eyes-closed kissin' in the backseat of the 'Stang include

“Hollywood” and “Goin' Back to Georgia,” which recalls Rod Stewart's “Gasoline Alley” in its melancholy tone and use of lap steel. Don't let the sweet sounds fool ya, though—this band's nowhere near done tanglin' with the dragon, as evidenced by the fiery “Let It Roll” and “Chasin' the Feeling.” *Polly Watson*



**Snail Mail**  
*Habit*  
(Sister Polygon)

➤ The aural equivalent of lying on your back in the patchy grass of the local ball field watching the sun and your chances of accomplishing anything in the next few hours fade to a hazy glow, *Habit* is jangly, '90s-inflected lo-fi indie pop at its finest. Vocalist/guitarist Lindsey Jordan's clear voice is at once

disaffected and brimming with passion as she contemplates the glories of boredom, the complexities of friendship, and the imagined desires of a garden slug. Lead track “Thinning” is a perfect pop song, with its warm, blurry guitar and instant-sing-along vocals, but the whole EP is a dusty gem. *Polly Watson*



**Little Dragon**  
*Season High*  
(Loma Vista)

➤ “Watch the fall of our empire on the big screen,” croons singer Yukimi Nagano, a natural biterush shredding her low-end vocals. Political lyrics aside, *Season High* is no great step forward from previous efforts, but there's nothing wrong with this Swedish quartet continuing their

infectious brand of dreamy pop. The Space Invaders bass line of “Sweet” and electro-disco beat of “Strobe Light” will keep this album spinning all season, while epic closer “Gravity” blissfully ends in a wall of cacophonous sound, portending good evolutions for this outstanding group. *Tommy Smith*



**Royal Thunder**  
*Wick*  
(Spinefarm)

➤ Mellencamp, Kid Rock and all these other windbags who drape themselves in the Stars and Stripes can go get stuffed: The sound of American rock'n'roll in 2017 is Royal Thunder. The Atlanta-based group has scaled the summit with their triple threat of psychedelic blues, heavy soul and galvanic rock.

Powered by singer/bassist Mlny Parsonz's soaring vocals and guitarist Josh Weaver's six-string gold, they evoke the howling and bleeding of this broken country with propulsive melodies and doleful lyrics. If there were any justice—which, obviously, there isn't—RT would be millionaires. *J. Bennett*



**Ides of Gemini**  
*Women*  
(Rise Above Limited)

➤ Ides of Gemini's third full-length release is a soaring, dynamic tapestry that finds the LA-bred band honing their distinctive blend of doom-metal, goth and post-rock. *Women* is a melodic, crushing anomaly that shirks the retro-centric trend of the current wave of female-fronted doom-metal

acts to make a far grander statement than the typical Sabbath-worship fare—one that in no way suffers from sorely unsung studio rat Sanford Parker's lush production. Standout tracks like blistering opener “Mother Kiev” and the enchanting “The Dancer” are worth the price of admission alone. *David Von Bader*

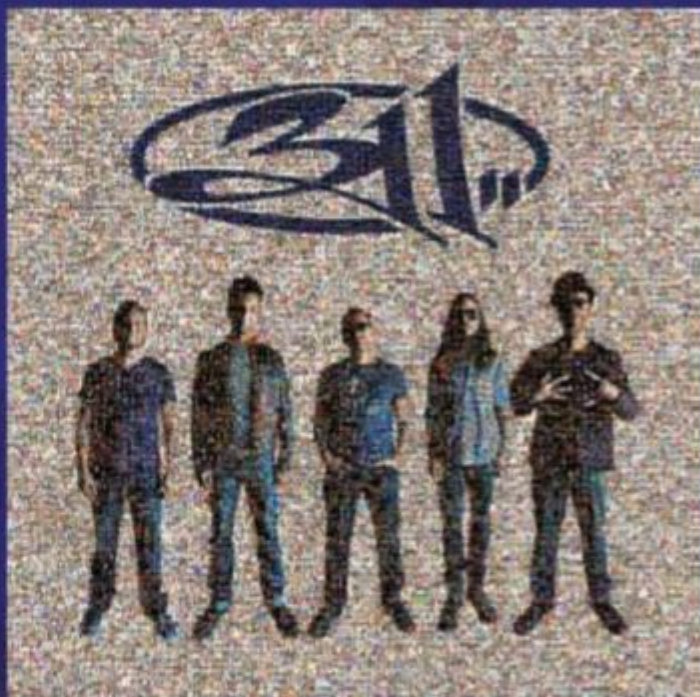




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## Patented Pot: A Multimillion-Dollar Battle Looms

As companies attempt to corner the cannabis market, patents present the possibility of a marijuana monopoly.



John Kagia is executive vice president of industry analytics for New Frontier Data

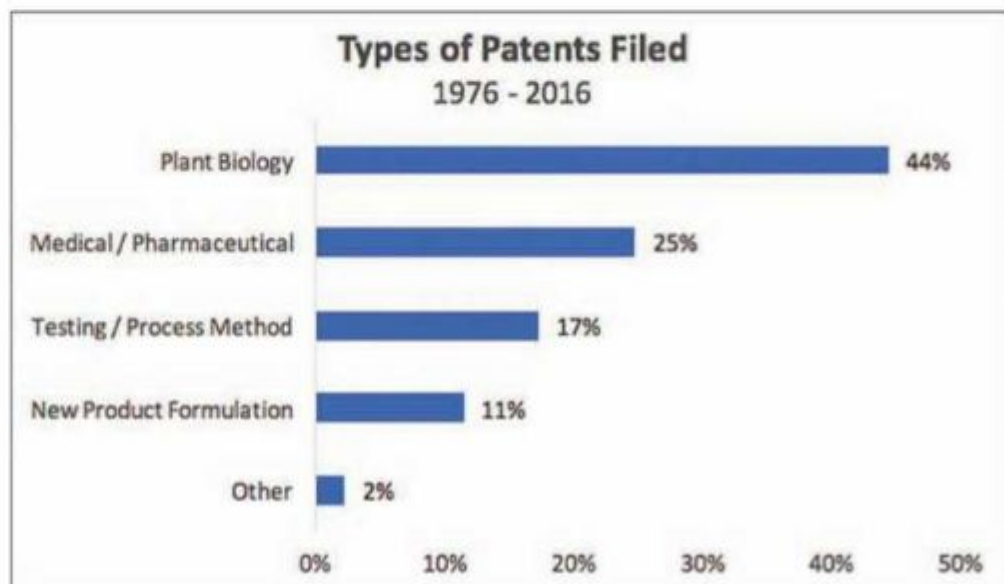
**E**NCOURAGED BY THE opening of legal markets in the various medical and recreational states, the cannabis industry has seen a surge of intellectual-property activity over the past 15 years. Nearly 400 patents have been filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with keywords like “cannabis,” “marijuana,” “CBD” and “THC.” Thus far, the patents range from new strains and novel extracts to recipes for cannabis-infused alcohol and the use of cannabinoids for the treatment of epilepsy.

While the USPTO can issue patents for such, the plant’s illegality under the Controlled Substances Act makes these patents difficult to enforce in federal courts.

Nevertheless, speculators are anticipating the vast and hugely profitable opportunities to be had once cannabis becomes legal nationally. Cannabis-related patents began to increase in the mid-1990s before peaking in the late 2000s. In New Frontier Data’s *Cannabis Industry Annual Report: 2017 Legal Marijuana Outlook*, these patents are separated into five categories: plant biology, medical/pharmaceutical applications, testing/process methods, new product formulations, and other.

Since 1976, most cannabis-related patents fell within the categories of plant biology (44%) or medical/pharmaceutical applications (25%). Since 2014, however, with the advent of adult-use markets in the recreational states, the number of patents issued for testing/process methods and new product formulations have increased, reflecting both the growing sophistication of the industry and an increased recognition of the value in intellectual-property rights.

While the protection of intellectual-property assets is understandable, some patents have the potential to be highly disruptive to the industry, particularly three filed by a single company, the Biotech Institute in Westlake Village, California. Biotech’s Patent US 9095554 was granted in 2015 as the first-ever marijuana-*breeding*-related patent. The



The Biotech Institute may be aiming to accumulate worldwide rights to a large swath of the cannabis-plant ecosystem in both the US and international markets.

summary abstract (part of a 140-plus-page application) states: “The invention provides compositions and methods for the breeding, production, processing and use of specialty cannabis.” Along with its Patent US 9370164, Biotech’s rights could cover 50 to 70 percent of all strains on the market, given that most cannabis plants currently grown fall within the THC, CBD and terpene ratio specifications outlined in those patents.

Bottom line? If they’re enforced, any grower whose strain matches the characteristics covered by Biotech’s patents could be legally forced to stop growing it, or be subject to royalty payments to the patent holder.

A third one pending, Patent US 20150366154, also from the Biotech Institute, covers propyl and “varin” cannabinoids, which are notable for their potential effectiveness in a range of therapeutic applications, including treatments for obesity, epilepsy and Parkinson’s disease.

Collectively, these patents could be

massively disruptive to the industry, spurring significant legal challenges, increasing the costs of doing business, and ultimately stifling innovation. With additional patents filed in Europe, the Biotech Institute may be aiming to accumulate worldwide rights to a large swath of the cannabis-plant ecosystem in both the US and international markets.

How the cannabis industry responds to Biotech’s patents (and other, similar patents that may be overly broad in covering cannabis plants and plant derivatives from processes that have been available for years prior to the patent applications) will be crucial in shaping the industry’s future. Challenging the patents through conventional channels in the USPTO could cost more than \$1 million in legal fees alone. Should such challenges be pursued in the courts, the estimated costs could scale upwards of \$5 million.

The ability to mount a robust legal challenge to such overly broad patents may require a pooling of resources by many cannabis companies, or engaging a legal-defense advocacy group willing to file challenges on a pro bono basis. Even then, such a case could take years of litigation, which means that anyone mounting a challenge should plan for a multiyear effort to determine who will collect the spoils in an industry potentially worth billions. 🌿



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**(Girl Scout Cookies)**  
 "Purchased through medical grower who is 100% organic."  
 -Provincetown, MA

**(Tangerine Dream)**  
 "Pleasant citrus aroma and taste."  
 -Bennington, VT

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

All indices, with the exception of the Southern Index, finished September below their previous month's average. The Eastern Index experienced the biggest drop, finishing \$10 below its August average. Meanwhile, the Southern Index jumped \$12 from its previous month's average and tied its year-high price at \$370 per ounce.

US Price Index

YTD Average: \$332



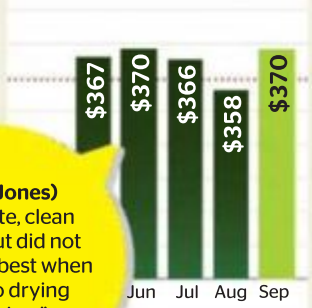
Eastern Index

YTD Average: \$353



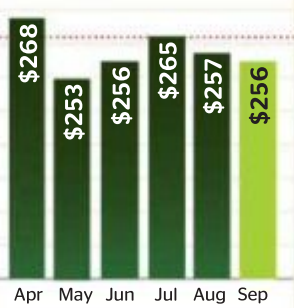
Southern Index

YTD Average: \$363



Western Index

YTD Average: \$265



**(Casey Jones)**  
 "Good taste, clean burning but did not receive the best when it came to drying and curing."  
 -Brussels, Belgium

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Prattville	Northern Lights #5	\$285
ARKANSAS	Little Rock	Tahoe OG	250
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Grape Ape	350
CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles San Francisco	Kosher Kush Guava Chem	300 320
COLORADO	Denver Pueblo	Blue Dream Ghost Train Haze	300 250
CONNECTICUT	Hartford	Trainwreck	360
FLORIDA	North Port	Lamb's Bread	250
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Juicy Fruit	380
HAWAII	Maui	Northern Lights	360
ILLINOIS	Chicago	Gorilla Glue	380
INDIANA	Indianapolis	Critical+	380
IOWA	Des Moines	Death Star	350
KENTUCKY	Albany	Lithium OG Kush	300
LOUISIANA	New Orleans	Skywalker OG	400
MAINE	Portland	Sour Diesel	260
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Blue Dream	380
MASSACHUSETTS	Provincetown	Dakini Kush Girl Scout Cookies	240 240
MICHIGAN	Ann Arbor	Deadhead OG	350
MINNESOTA	Minneapolis	Purple Haze	375
MISSISSIPPI	Oxford	Master Kush	380
MONTANA	Helena	Blue Dream	330
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Three Kings	380
NEW JERSEY	Trenton	Tahoe OG	380
NEW YORK	New York Brooklyn	Gorilla Glue #4 Strawberry Cough	375 360
NORTH DAKOTA	Fargo	Funky Monkey	300
OHIO	Columbus	G-13	360
OREGON	Portland	Goji OG	250
PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Grand Daddy Purp	400
TENNESSEE	Nashville	Mids Hydro	130 300
TEXAS	Austin	East Coast Sour Diesel	380
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Jedi Kush	360
VERMONT	Bennington	Tangerine Dream	320
VIRGINIA	Richmond	Super Silver Haze	380
WASHINGTON	Seattle	Godfather OG	260
WISCONSIN	Madison	Banana Kush	375
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>			
CANADA	Montreal Toronto	Bruce Banner Girl Scout Cookies	\$C180 150
BELGIUM	Brussels	Jack Herer Casey Jones	€227 227
UNITED KINGDOM	Birmingham	Cheese	£ 300

High Times wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information including location and price by the ounce to [thmq@hightimes.com](mailto:thmq@hightimes.com), or tweet us (#THMQ).

**(Hydro)**  
 "This is strong weed but it's harsh on the lungs."  
 -Nashville, TN



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# ADVANCED NUTRIENTS PIONEERS MARIJUANA GROWING EDUCATION

**Advanced Nutrients** has recently launched **Grow Med University (GMU)**, a free, self-directed online hydroponics course that reveals the latest techniques, tips, tricks, and technology used by the most competitive marijuana growers in the world.

Step-by-step tutorial videos, white papers, efficacy reports, and informative scientific articles allow any grower with an Internet connection to hone their skills and help produce their best harvest yet, free of charge.

## Why Marijuana Growing Education Is a Top Priority for Advanced Nutrients

The medical marijuana industry is growing every minute. Legal marijuana is the fastest-growing industry in the U.S. and a slew of other businesses are jumping on the bandwagon as well. At present, 23 U.S. states allow medical-marijuana use, while 7 have legislation pending to issue licenses for it.

4 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized cannabis outright, while another California referendum in 2016 will allow recreational use in a state that was the first to permit medical marijuana use way back in 1996. It is estimated that medical marijuana is already a multibillion-dollar industry (without counting recreational sales).

While a great deal of information and misinformation appears daily on the Internet, novices and more advanced growers alike are always looking for a source of reliable information which can serve to improve their yields, both in terms of quality and quantity. A whole community of growers inhabit the growers' forums and are always looking to perfect their growing skills, without having to wade through hours and hours of irrelevant or misleading forum posts.

**GMU** is a bold step in a better direction, and by elevating the general level of education among growers, the quality of marijuana, especially as medicine, will skyrocket worldwide. This isn't just for connoisseurs. It's for children with epilepsy, as well as adults suffering from the effects of chemotherapy, chronic pain, and glaucoma. Thousands of YouTube videos help document the impressive results of therapeutic cannabis use.

**Grow Med University** is a course representing the cumulative experience of scores of the most competitive growing experts. From day one, it was envisioned as a community-driven resource, providing much needed knowledge to the medical-marijuana community. If you have a passion for hydroponics and growing marijuana to help patients get rid of illness and pain, then **Grow Med University** is for you.



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When you choose any of Advanced Nutrients' pH Perfect® Base Nutrients, you will also receive 5 Benefits in 1 that are included in every bottle at no additional cost... Other companies might charge hundreds of dollars for the same benefits these products bring you, but they're all included as part of the standard formulations in each of our cup-winning, plant-specific base nutrients. They are...



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**Wet Betty** is a non-ionic surfactant (also called a wetting agent) that lowers the surface tension of your nutrient-rich water, allowing easier spreading and uptake of nutrients into your plants. That means your plants get the nutrients they crave faster and more efficiently than ever before. Plus, scientific testing by the leading plant PhD in surfactant studies shows **Wet Betty** (by itself) consistently increases plant growth by an average of 6%!

### 2. F1

Short-chain **Fulvic Acid** is still not 100% understood scientifically, but it directly stimulates plant growth and is 1,000 times smaller than humic acid—making it easily utilized by your plants. Fulvic Acid is also a natural chelator that gives you quicker nutrient absorption, transport, and enhanced cellular metabolism.

### 3. H2

Introducing long-chain **Humic Acid** to your root zone is like building a "condominium complex" for beneficial bacteria and fungi, giving them an optimal structure to flourish in.

### 4. Amino Acids

Many athletes supplement with **amino acids** to help fuel muscle growth because they're the essential "building blocks" of protein. In the same way, your plants benefit from amino acids! The broad spectrum of 20 amino acids in Advanced Nutrients base nutrients fuel metabolic pathways for enhanced essential-oil production and are critical to the construction of cell walls in stems, leaves, and flowers.

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When you use any Advanced Nutrients base nutrient, the pH Perfect® Technology inside automatically stabilizes and locks in your pH within the optimal range (called the "sweet spot") of pH 5.5–6.3—and keeps it there for one week. No more pens. No more meters. No more being chained to your nutrient reservoir, checking and adjusting pH, because the scientific formulation does it for you. Plus, with a theoretical absorption range between pH 1 and pH 10—this technology acts as a built-in safety net ensuring your plants can always feed and even if some error or bad water source takes the pH above or below where it should be, you'll still be able to turn a good crop.

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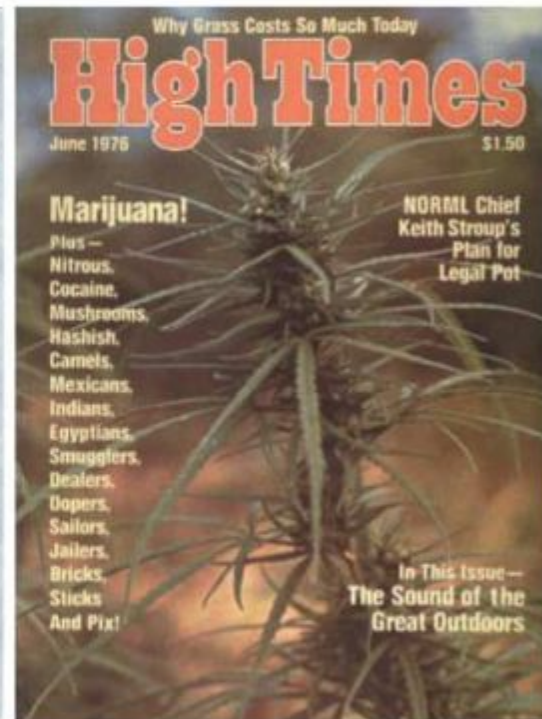


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Raising the Bud Weights... and Reputations... of Top Growers





# 500 Issues of High Times

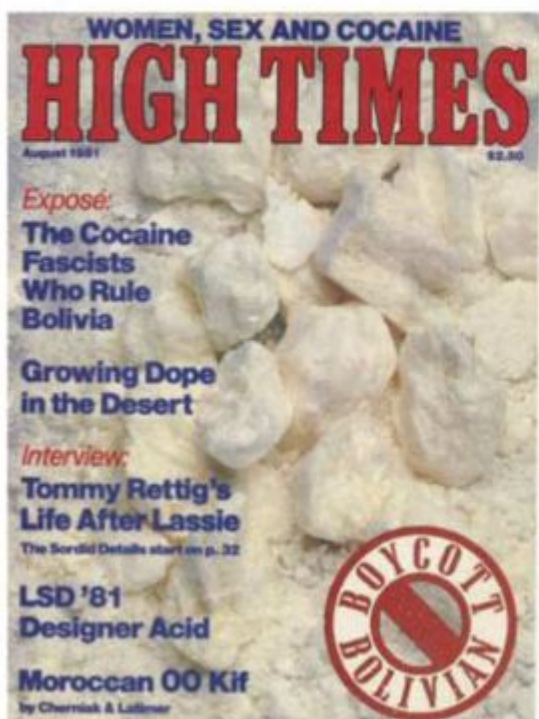
A brief history of the world's most notorious magazine. *By Mike Gianakos*

**High Times** was founded in 1974 by a mercurial and brilliant marijuana smuggler, Thomas King Forçade. The traditional creation story goes that the magazine was intended as just a single issue, a one-off satire of *Playboy* that substituted pot for naked women, essentially a spoof. However, others insist that Forçade's intention was more high-minded—a conscious attempt at subverting Richard Nixon's War on Drugs. There's likely some truth to both theories, but it's clear that neither Forçade nor his ragtag group of editors could have foreseen that this underground magazine—allegedly conceived during a nitrous-oxide session—would still be publishing 43 years and 500 issues later.

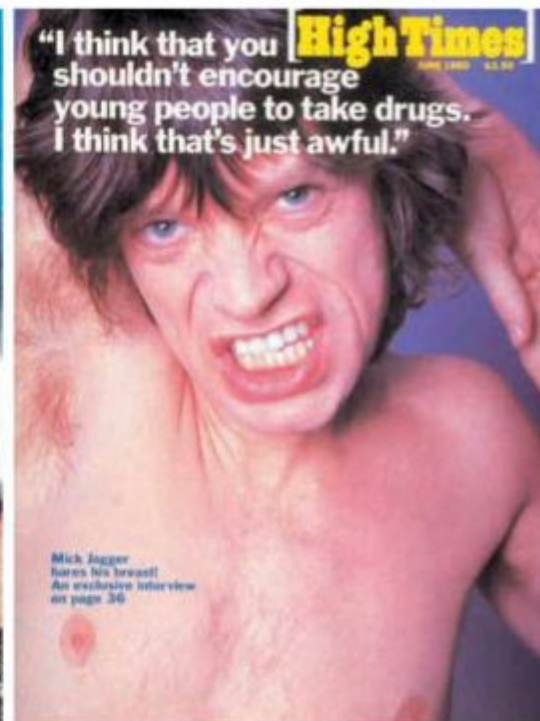
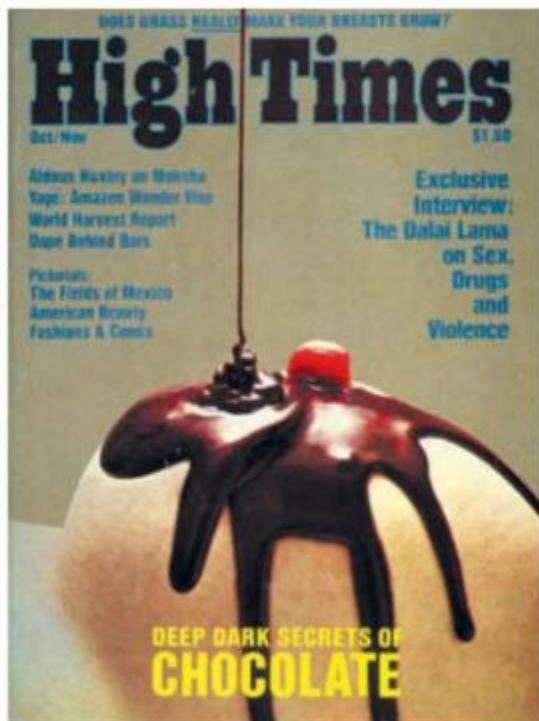
Tom Forçade was a fascinating character. A political agitator

and dope dealer who understood the power of the press, he served as head of the Underground Press Syndicate for years and used his marijuana-smuggling operation to fund struggling counterculture publications in the late 1960s and early '70s. Naturally, *High Times* was founded and kept afloat during lean years on the pot proceeds that Forçade brought in—an outlaw magazine created by an outlaw.

The first issue of *High Times* was ahead of its time, with stories championing the medicinal properties of marijuana and the benefits of using hemp. The now-legendary first cover, featuring a young woman holding a mushroom tantalizingly close to her lips, helped the issue sell out its initial print run of 10,000 copies. It was reprinted twice and sold out those copies







as well. By the time the second issue was ready for publication, 50,000 copies were printed and quickly sold out. Forçade's *Playboy* for the counterculture was an unexpected and immediate hit.

A magazine dedicated to marijuana, while still taboo in some parts of the country today, was revolutionary 43 years ago. The *High Times* staff struggled with the idea of putting buds on the cover, choosing instead to publish images that implied cannabis use. It wasn't until the 10th issue (June 1976) that a marijuana plant appeared on the cover for the first time—meaning that a bare breast smothered in chocolate syrup was considered a safer cover image than cannabis.

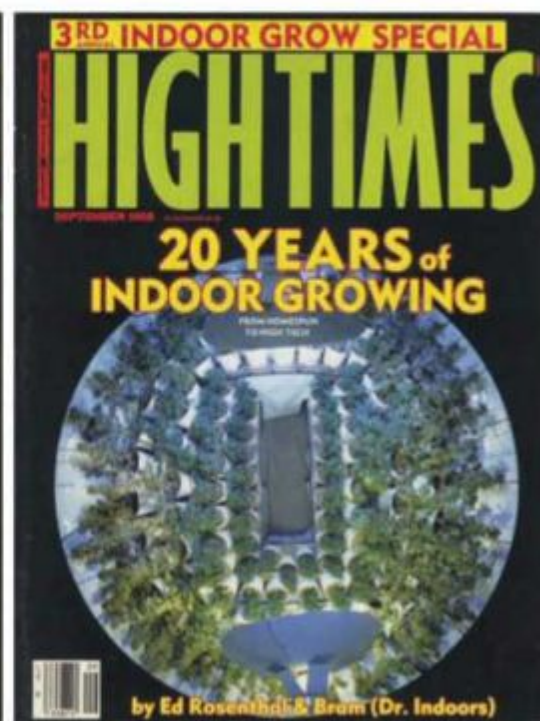
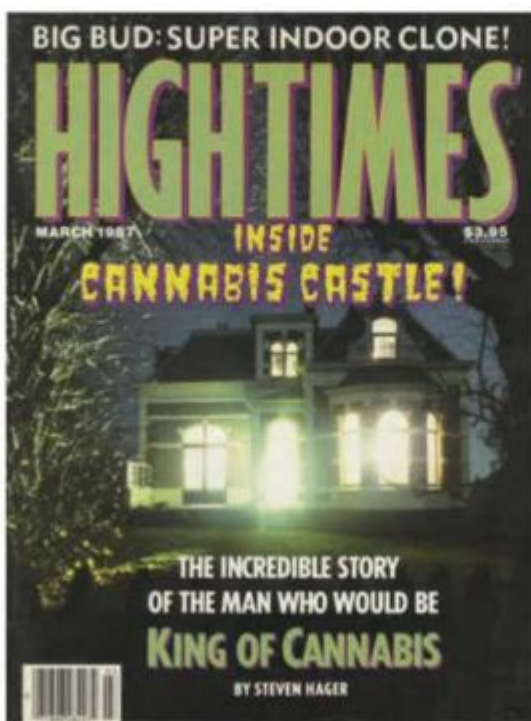
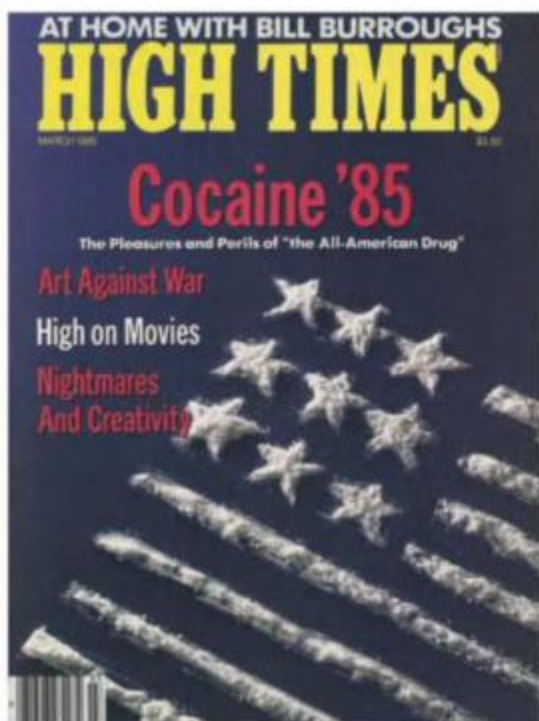
That landmark June 1976 cover provided the first glimpse of a live marijuana plant for many smokers. Through the years, *High Times* has continued the tradition of exposing the uninitiated to the beauty of the cannabis plant. It turns out that a picture of pot is easily the most successful image for a *High Times* cover. “We can't go wrong when we put a bud on the cover—growing, dry, pretty much any way,” senior cultivation

editor Danny Danko explains. “People love to see what their pot looks like when it's growing.”

In the world of magazine publishing, *High Times'* initial success was startling. According to former *HT* contributor and Tom Forçade chronicler Albert Goldman: “Starting the magazine on a \$20,000 shoestring, Forçade would see the circulation double with every issue for years, until at its peak, in 1978, *High Times* was read by four million people a month, grossed five million dollars a year, and had been acclaimed as the ‘publishing success story of the '70s.’”

In addition to making a connection with a loyal audience of cannabis cultivators and consumers in those early days, *High Times* gained credibility by showcasing celebrities like Bob Marley, Mick Jagger and Peter Tosh. And the magazine quickly became known for its counterculture journalism, featuring luminary scribes like William S. Burroughs, Charles Bukowski and Terry Southern.

However, the 1980s proved to be a period of soul-searching for the magazine. Tragically, Forçade committed suicide in





his New York City apartment in 1978, at the age of 33. Under new leadership, *High Times* moved away from pot, often featuring cocaine on the cover and in the centerfold (and likely in the editorial office, too). The magazine was founded in part to challenge authority in general and the Drug War in particular, but the shift to blow unquestionably alienated readers.

Fortunately, by the mid-1980s, a new editorial team led by John Howell and Steve Hager took the helm. Howell and Hager wisely got *High Times* off the hard drugs and made the move back to pot, where the magazine has remained to this day. This editorial refocusing coincided with the indoor-grow revolution, which took off in the '80s and exploded in the '90s. *High Times* led the way in teaching tokers the world over how to grow their own high-quality pot at home.

While cannabis remained the cover model of choice throughout the late '80s, the 1990s brought a shift to celebrity covers, including *HT's* first hip-hop cover in March 1992, featuring Cypress Hill. "In addition, we shot B-Real rolling a blunt, which appeared in the centerfold. It was a first for *High Times*," former music editor Steve Bloom recalls. "Several months later, it was The Black Crowes' turn. With those two covers, the floodgates opened—suddenly bands were lining up to appear on the cover." The 1990s saw the likes of Redman, Method Man, Ice Cube, Kurt Cobain, Keith Richards, Bob Dylan, Ozzy Osbourne and George Carlin gracing the cover of *High Times*.

Despite the uptick in celebrity covers, the magazine held fast to its cultivation focus, with plenty of glorious pot shots and big grow features like "The Million-Dollar Grow Room," "Giant Yields in Small Spaces" and "The Guide to Indoor Grow Lights." As Danko notes, "The prevailing idea was that you needed acres of outdoor fields to grow marijuana, but *High Times* covers were revealing that it simply wasn't true. Pot could be grown virtually anywhere with the right equipment and genetics, and all of it could be found in the pages of a magazine purchased for less than \$4." There was also a noticeable increase in the quality of the pot photography featured in the magazine during this period, thanks to the contributions of expert photographers like Andre Grossmann, Brian Jahn, MG Imaging and Dan Skye.

The late '90s and early 2000s saw the debut of some of *HT's* longest-running



grow features, including the Annual Hydro Report, the STASH Awards and the World's Greatest Seed Banks (which eventually became the Seed Bank Hall of Fame).

Then, in 2004, in a misguided effort to transform the magazine into a literary/political journal, the pot was taken out of *High Times*, relegating all cultivation content to a quarterly mag called *Grow America*. While this period produced a couple of notable covers featuring Dave Chappelle and Ani DiFranco, it was a commercial failure. Fortunately, it was also short-lived, and the nug-filled Strawberry Cough cover for our January 2005 issue proudly proclaimed, "The Buds Are Back!"

As *High Times* got back on track and slowly sought to rebuild the relationship with its loyal readers, cannabis covers once again reigned supreme. Sure, there were some celebs mixed in (Cheech & Chong, Willie Nelson, Damian Marley) and a couple of Miss *High Times* too, but pot remained the primary focus, and the biggest cover question that the staff encountered from month to month was whether to feature a live plant or dry buds.

The current decade kicked off with a major change for *High Times*: the first Cannabis Cup held in the United States. These stateside events have played a huge role in the success of the company as well as the success of several covers, including the November 2010 issue. The October 2012 issue marked another first when *HT* featured "Dabs!" on the cover and asked whether concentrates were becoming the future of marijuana. Some of the magazine's most popular issue themes have come out of this period as well, including "The Strongest Strains on Earth," "The Best-Tasting Buds" and "Indoor vs. Outdoor." And while the *High Times* staff selects the cover images more carefully than ever, we're still up for some experimentation: We went all in on an ambitious photo shoot with Snoop Dogg, B-Real, Redman and Method Man dubbed "Mount Kushmore," and we've featured President Obama, the creators of *High Maintenance* and a US Marine smoking a joint on recent covers.

Of all the anniversary issues over the years, the *HT* staff is most partial to the one you currently hold in your hands. And while selecting a great *High Times* cover is certainly more art than science, here's hoping we have another 500 issues to perfect the process.



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## HIGH TIMES

# 2016 S.T.A.S.H. AWARDS

## OUR PICKS FOR GEAR OF THE YEAR

The High Times Cultivation Department is constantly on the lookout for new innovations in marijuana-farming technology. Each year, we reveal the latest and greatest grow gear as part of our Significant Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture (or S.T.A.S.H.) Awards.



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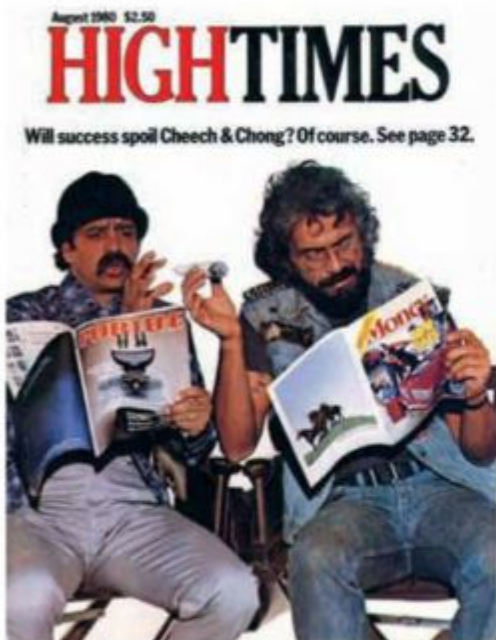
\$4000 Collective Unit \$8000 Industrial Unit

ultra-trimmer.com



Trimming up a storm





**Tommy Chong**

**on his relationship with High Times:**

“High Times is really our official magazine—it united stoners all around the world. I mean, we always knew that there were other stoners out there, but until High Times magazine came along, no publication had devoted everything to the weed... Cheech & Chong have been on the cover more than anybody else. It defined us, just like we defined High Times. It’s a nice little marriage, since 99 percent of the iconic Cheech & Chong images have been from High Times’ photography—because it was spot-on. I’ve been involved with High Times for over half my life. High Times has always been there for me, and I’ve always been there for them. I’ve seen the evolution. I’ve always represented exactly what High Times represents. We represent the same thing. High Times is the official handbook for anything pot and everything pot—and anything hip.”



**Chief Cannabis Officer Nico Escondido on HT’s relationship with Cocaine:**

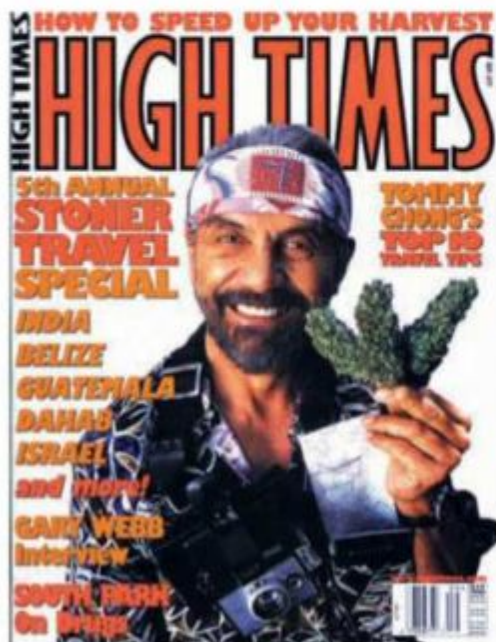
“Looking back over the years at some of my own favorite magazine moments really shows me just what a demented freak I truly am. It’s wild to think that once upon a time High Times was much much broader in scope than just a pot rag, but rather was a celebration of all forms of debauchery. Take for example the year I was born, 1978, perhaps one of the most outlandish years in terms of covers and content that we have ever produced. The legendary “Banana Boat” cover (September ’78) introduced a massive cocaine smuggling operation from South America. Inside were stories about the history of such plots—complete with the infamous “CocaBanana” centerfold, which depicted bails of bananas, sliced open to reveal piles of pure cocaine. Two months later, in November 1978, the cover itself portrayed a caricature of former-President Jimmy Carter tooting a bump of coke from a spoon.”



**Former senior editor Bobby Black, on his one and only cover appearance:**

“So I was actually on the cover of High Times once, but you would never know it because I was in a mask. We wanted to do this UFO-themed alien cover [August ’95], and we needed somebody to pose for the cover with a joint and an alien mask. Well, I was new at High Times, and I was jazzed about the opportunity to be on the cover, you know, so I was like, ‘Yeah, I’ll do it!’ I volunteered, and little did I realize what I was getting myself into.

“We ended up doing the shoot in an apartment in New York City in the middle of the summer—an apartment that had no air conditioning—and it turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. And I’m in this mask, and I’ve got these fake alien hands that I’m trying to hold things with, and I couldn’t breathe in the mask. My breath was causing condensation on the plastic eyes, so I couldn’t see either. I’m just like, ‘Did you get the shot yet?’ and I’m about to pass out. After several hours of hyperventilating and sweating and all kinds of issues, we finally got the shots done, and it all ended up being worth it, because the cover came out really cool.”



**Art director Frank Max, on dealing with pot and celebrities:**

“Some celebrities have a tough reaction—they don’t want to pose with pot. With others, it’s a process, and it slowly wears on them until they finally say, ‘Oh, give me a hit of that joint’—which was the case with Frances McDormand. It started off with her saying, ‘I’ll just wear a pot-leaf T-shirt,’ and the next thing you know: ‘Hey, guys, can I get a light?’ It worked out great.





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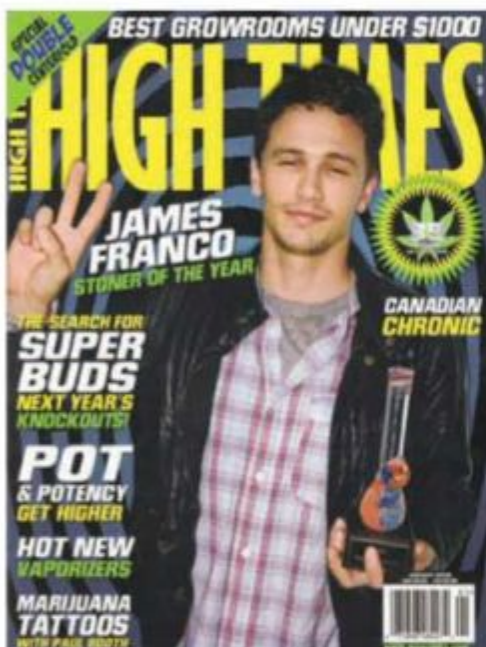
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**Former managing editor Natasha Lewin, on the cover choice she regrets:**  
 “I made a mistake, once, and it was James Franco. He was our Stoner of the Year in 2009. He did *Pineapple Express*, and James Franco is—what can I say?—he’s hot and a wonderful person. I got to interview him on the green carpet for our Stony Awards in Malibu, and I was just gung-ho for James Franco. I was ready to have him on the cover, and it’s tough—you know, it’s a tough call. I was kind of going with my heart, not my head. In retrospect, James Franco could have been a ‘burst’ or a big cover line—or, you know, if he was holding a plant or if he was in a grow facility... If he was anything else besides holding that award, it possibly could have worked. But looking back, James Franco probably wasn’t the best person we could have had on the cover.”

**Former editor-in-chief Dan Skye, on the mysteries of the *High Times* cover:**  
 “It’s been an evolution. When I first got to *High Times*, you could put Janis Joplin on the cover—no eye contact, eyes closed—and she sold off the hook. No one understood that... One time, a couple of girls sent in a picture of themselves—they were twins. So what can we do with a couple of pretty twins? Well, clones. Clones—that’s what we did. Huge seller... Another time, we put a mud pie on the cover. I was convinced that wouldn’t work: It looked like a mud pie with a little leaf coming out of the top. It sold off the hook. You can never predict these things.”

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Former publisher John Holmstrom, on one of his proudest moments at HT:

“One of my proudest moments was when we got Tommy Chong to pose with a big bud in 1989. This was when the War on Drugs was at its worst. Operation Green Merchant had just recently tried to put *High Times* out of business, so getting someone to endorse marijuana that publicly at that time was a great thing. I think Tommy Chong really deserves whatever accolades he gets from *High Times* for being such a brave person. ‘Foolish’ is the other word, of course.”



(L to R): Steve Bloom, Frank Max, Snoop, Amy Lasch, Rick Cusick and Mike Czerhoniak

Former editor Steve Bloom, on HT's first Snoop Dogg cover:

“I’d been trying to score an interview and photo shoot with Snoop Dogg for several years. After a number of false alarms, it finally came together for the first issue of the new millennium, January 2000. Snoop was already at the studio when we arrived. The only problem was, we still hadn’t scored the high-quality buds needed for the shoot. About a half-hour later, several *High Times* staffers arrived with a big, smelly bag. Snoop buried his head in it and came out with a big smile. The shoot was on. Most shoots were fairly fast, but this one went on for hours—to the point that I had to wake Snoop up from a catnap on the couch when it was all over. 🌿

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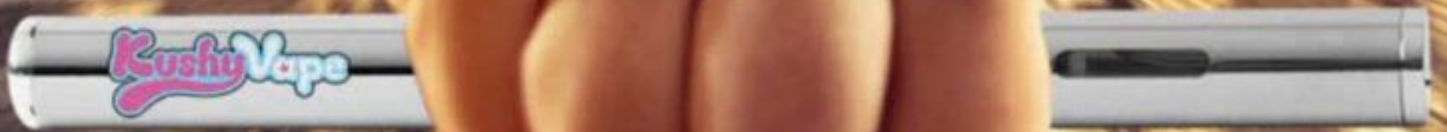
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# 2017 STASH Awards



In every September issue of *High Times*, our cultivation experts reveal their choices for the best grow gear of the year. We call our picks the STASH Awards (for Significant Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture), and our aim is always to reduce your hassles and increase your harvests.

*By Danny Danko*

## **Best Grow Tent: The Gorilla Grow Tent (9' x 9')**

Grow tents provide the perfect alternative to building out an existing room or purchasing an expensive grow box. They can be easily put up or disassembled by one person, but they need to be strong as well as light- and odor-proof. We love the Gorilla Grow Tents, all made with a sturdy 100% metal interlocking frame and connectors. They even come with an infrared-blocking roof insertion and flood-protection pools for peace of mind—plus the free extension kit can add up to 2 feet to the height of the tent.

\$1,295.99

[gorillagrowtent.com](http://gorillagrowtent.com)

## **Best Grow Box: Super-Trinity LED Grow Cabinet**

A grow box with multiple growing areas provides a perpetual harvest in a relatively small space. With three key-locking chambers—one for cloning and germination, one for the vegetative stage and one for flowering—the SuperTrinity Cabinet from SuperCloset produces plenty of pot that can be harvested every month. It's lit by award-winning Kind LED grow lights that keep heat and electrical costs to a minimum. These cabinets also come with a nine-episode video tutorial, a "no hassle" three-year warranty, and complimentary lifetime customer support.

\$5,595

[supercloset.com](http://supercloset.com)







### Best Dehumidifier: Quest 185 Cool Dehumidifier

Maintaining proper humidity levels is essential to successful indoor farming, but standard dehumidifiers create heat as they remove water from the air. The new Quest 185 Cool Dehumidifier is a split-system unit that pumps excess heat out of the growroom, while the condenser reduces moisture in the air that can cause molds and mildews to form. This reduces the burden on your air conditioner and lowers energy costs, while improving cooling ability and helping to reduce the risk of bud rot.

\$3,900

[questhydro.com](http://questhydro.com)



### Best Cloning Products: EZ Clone

Ever since 2000, when they essentially created the aeroponic-cloning industry with the introduction of the first EZ Clone machine, this company has been at the forefront of cutting and rooting technology. Their variously sized units supply a fine mist to the cut ends of clones in order to induce roots quickly and easily. Now they have products for every grower's needs, including rooting compounds, pumps, misters, manifolds, collars and cloning tents.

Prices vary

[ezclone.com](http://ezclone.com)





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**Best HID Light: DEva 1,000-Watt Double-Ended HPS from Revolution Micro**

HID lighting hasn't improved much in the past 30 years, but the new DEva 1,000-Watt Double-Ended HPS (high-pressure sodium) lighting system from Revolution Micro has changed the game. The low-frequency ballast is built right into the reflector, and the whole unit comes completely integrated, allowing the grower to simply plug and play. Couple this with their RLC-1 Smart Lighting Controller (\$299), which will dim the lights to conserve electricity and reduce heat (or to simulate sunrise and sunset), and which controls up to 412 grow lights.

\$499

[revolutionmicro.com](http://revolutionmicro.com)



**Best LED Light: The G8-600 Bloom Only Grow Light from DormGrow**

As LED (light-emitting diode) technology for plant growing continues to evolve, DormGrow has been on the cutting edge of new high-performance lighting units. Their G8-600 Bloom Only Grow Light is formulated for the flowering cycle and covers a footprint of 20 square feet. This light is meant to replace a 600- or 1,000-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp, but it generates far less heat and uses far less electricity, drawing only 380 watts of power on 3.3 amps—and it's backed with a two-year warranty.

\$899

[dormgrow.com](http://dormgrow.com)



**Best LED Innovation: The Kind LED XL 1000 Grow Light**

LED technology continues to advance by leaps and bounds, increasing light and lowering heat and electrical costs. The new XL 1000 from Kind LED is the only LED grow light that is UL-certified, and it offers a fully customizable 12-band perfect spectrum (including UV and IR)

with remote control, a true 5' x 5' footprint, and Secondary Optical Lens technology that magnifies PAR and increases canopy penetration up to 200%. These lights come with lifetime customer support and a 90-day money-back guarantee.

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[kindledgrowlights.com](http://kindledgrowlights.com)





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### Best Rosin Press: Sasquash 2.0

Methods for the solvent-less production of cannabis oil have burst onto the scene, as more and more people turn away from using butane or other unsafe solvents to extract their hashish. The pneumatic 15-ton Sasquash 2.0 Rosin Press squeezes the essential oils right out of your buds, dry-sift or bubble hash in a way similar to how olive oil is pressed. Just the right amount of heat and pressure are applied to release the oil and still preserve those precious, flavorful terpenes.

\$3,400

[supporttheroots.com](http://supporttheroots.com)



### Best Air Purifier: GT3000 from Go Green Environmental

If odor control is a priority, and it certainly should be, you must find ways to eliminate telltale scents. The GT3000 Air Purifier attacks and neutralizes odors for up to 3,000 sq. ft. You can adjust the fan speed and purification settings by remote control, and the three different-sized units available are all quiet and energy-efficient. Built to last 10 years or more with a one-year full warranty, this is the last air cleaner you'll ever have to buy.

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[airador.com](http://airador.com)



### Best Hydroponic System: SuperPonics

Started in the garage of founder Kip Andersen in 2002, SuperPonics fuse together several proven hydroponic methods into one easy-to-use system that will accelerate growth rates during every stage of the plant's lifecycle. These units are custom-molded, UV-stable and designed for fast-growing plants. The SuperCloners are perfect for starting seedlings and rooting

cuttings, while the eight-, 12- or 16-site SuperPonics systems combine deep-water culture (DWC), top-feed and aeroponics for rapid growth. Their Bubble Flow Bucket system utilizes Constant-Flow technology to grow monster plants in huge 6.6-gallon buckets.

Prices vary

[supercloset.com](http://supercloset.com)



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**Best Nutrient Line: Advanced Nutrients**

For more than 20 years, Advanced Nutrients have been at the forefront of formulating plant foods specifically made for cannabis. While all of the other hydroponic companies hid their heads in the sand, Advanced Nutrients were proud of their connection to marijuana farmers. Over the years, they've

developed a dizzying array of products for every stage of a pot plant's growth. Their new pH Perfect line is pre-buffered, and their many additives provide everything your growing buds need to thrive. Plus their customer service is second to none.

Prices vary  
[advancednutrients.com](http://advancednutrients.com)



**Best Cal/Mag Additive: Suite Leaf Nutrients**

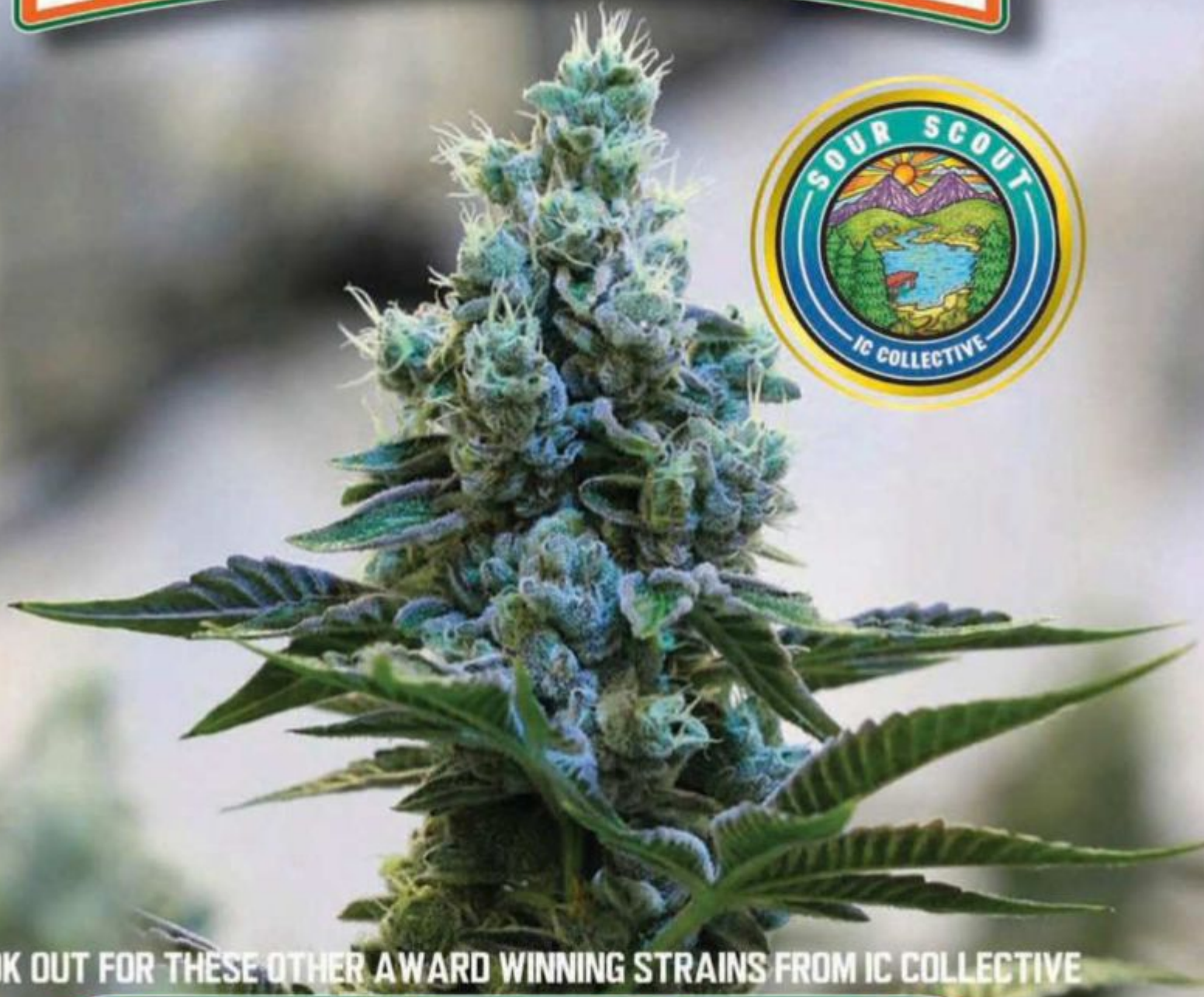
Supplements of calcium and magnesium are essential for healthy plant growth and leaf production, while deficiencies of these two micronutrients account for many first-time growers' issues. With a natural organic supply of these essential elements, Suite Leaf Nutrients' Cal/Mag Maximizer improves chlorophyll production and results in healthier plants and heavier harvests. Used throughout every stage of the lifecycle, this additive will boost growth rates and protect your plants from debilitating setbacks that can negatively affect yields.

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[suiteleaf.com](http://suiteleaf.com)





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[sohumsoils.com](http://sohumsoils.com)



**Best New Hydroponic Innovation: DO Dissolved Oxygen by Direct Output**

Oxygen is an essential, yet often overlooked, necessity for healthy root and plant growth. The DO Dissolved Oxygen additive provides plenty of O<sub>2</sub> to clones or vegging and flowering plants. Use it as an additive to your hydro reservoir, a root drench for plants in a soilless mix, or as a foliar feed throughout and you'll see an enormous difference. Still not convinced? Get a free sample from their website and find out what all the hype is about.

\$57.99, 1 quart; \$214.99, 1 gallon

[dodissolvedoxygen.com](http://dodissolvedoxygen.com) 🌿

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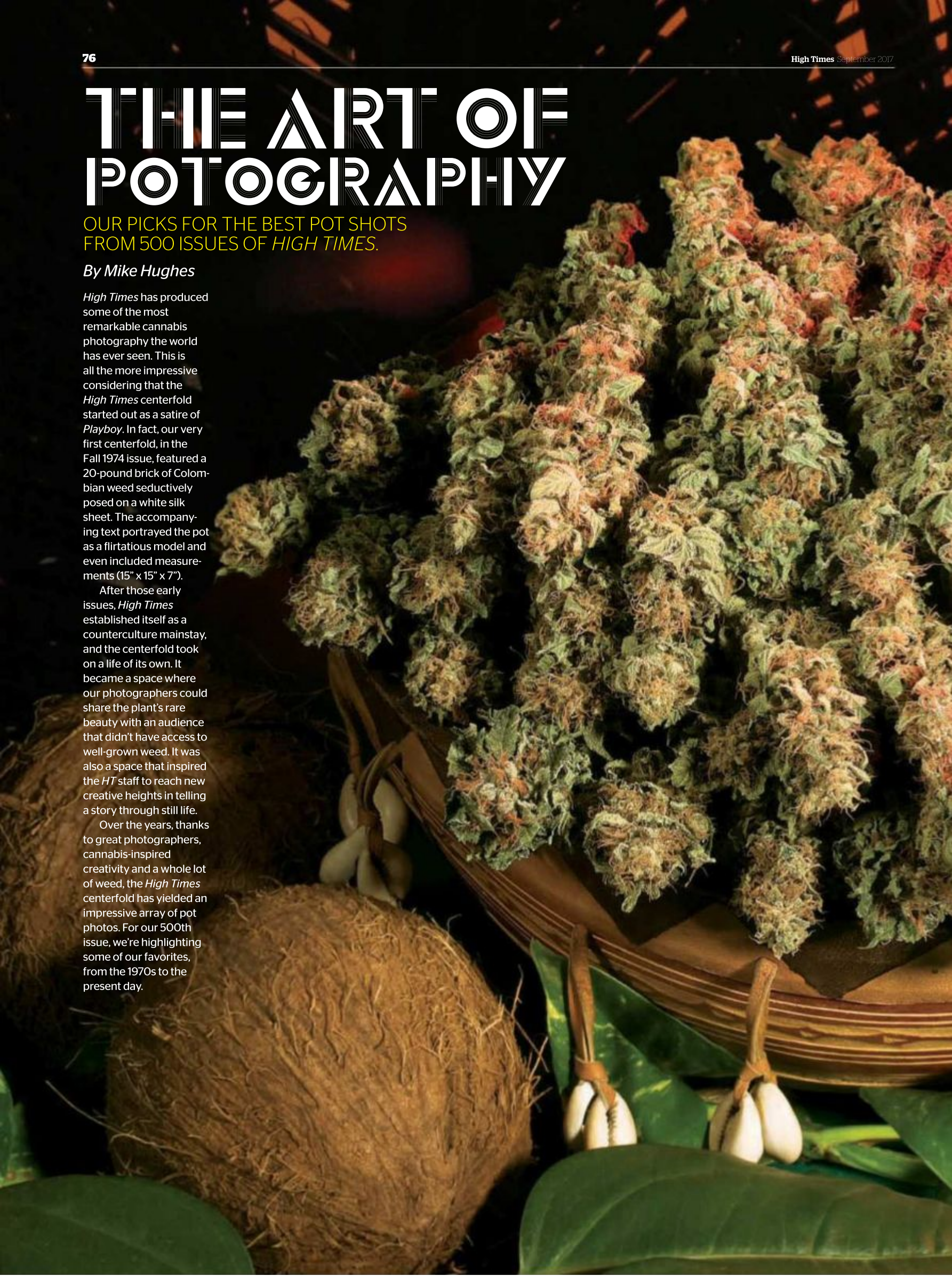
OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST POT SHOTS FROM 500 ISSUES OF *HIGH TIMES*.

By Mike Hughes

*High Times* has produced some of the most remarkable cannabis photography the world has ever seen. This is all the more impressive considering that the *High Times* centerfold started out as a satire of *Playboy*. In fact, our very first centerfold, in the Fall 1974 issue, featured a 20-pound brick of Colombian weed seductively posed on a white silk sheet. The accompanying text portrayed the pot as a flirtatious model and even included measurements (15" x 15" x 7").

After those early issues, *High Times* established itself as a counterculture mainstay, and the centerfold took on a life of its own. It became a space where our photographers could share the plant's rare beauty with an audience that didn't have access to well-grown weed. It was also a space that inspired the *HT* staff to reach new creative heights in telling a story through still life.

Over the years, thanks to great photographers, cannabis-inspired creativity and a whole lot of weed, the *High Times* centerfold has yielded an impressive array of pot photos. For our 500th issue, we're highlighting some of our favorites, from the 1970s to the present day.





Our August 2010 centerfold featured a giant bowl of Guava Chem surrounded by coconuts and mangos.







## THE 70'S

**ABOVE:** Before the indoor-cultivation revolution, smokers relied on sun-grown weed smuggled into the United States from places like Mexico, Jamaica and Colombia. This centerfold, from our Spring 1975 issue, features some of the choicest bud the '70s had to offer: Thai Stick. Originating in Thailand, Thai Stick was potent pot painstakingly tied to stems. It was also expensive, costing as much as \$2,500 per pound. **BELOW:** One of our all-time-favorite shots, this centerfold features a ton of pot! An actual ton. That's 2,000 pounds,

or 32,000 ounces—plus one lucky model who got to roll around in all that weed while watching Johnny Carson. This epic pic, shot by the legendary pot photographer Steve Cooper, appeared in our March 1978 issue.





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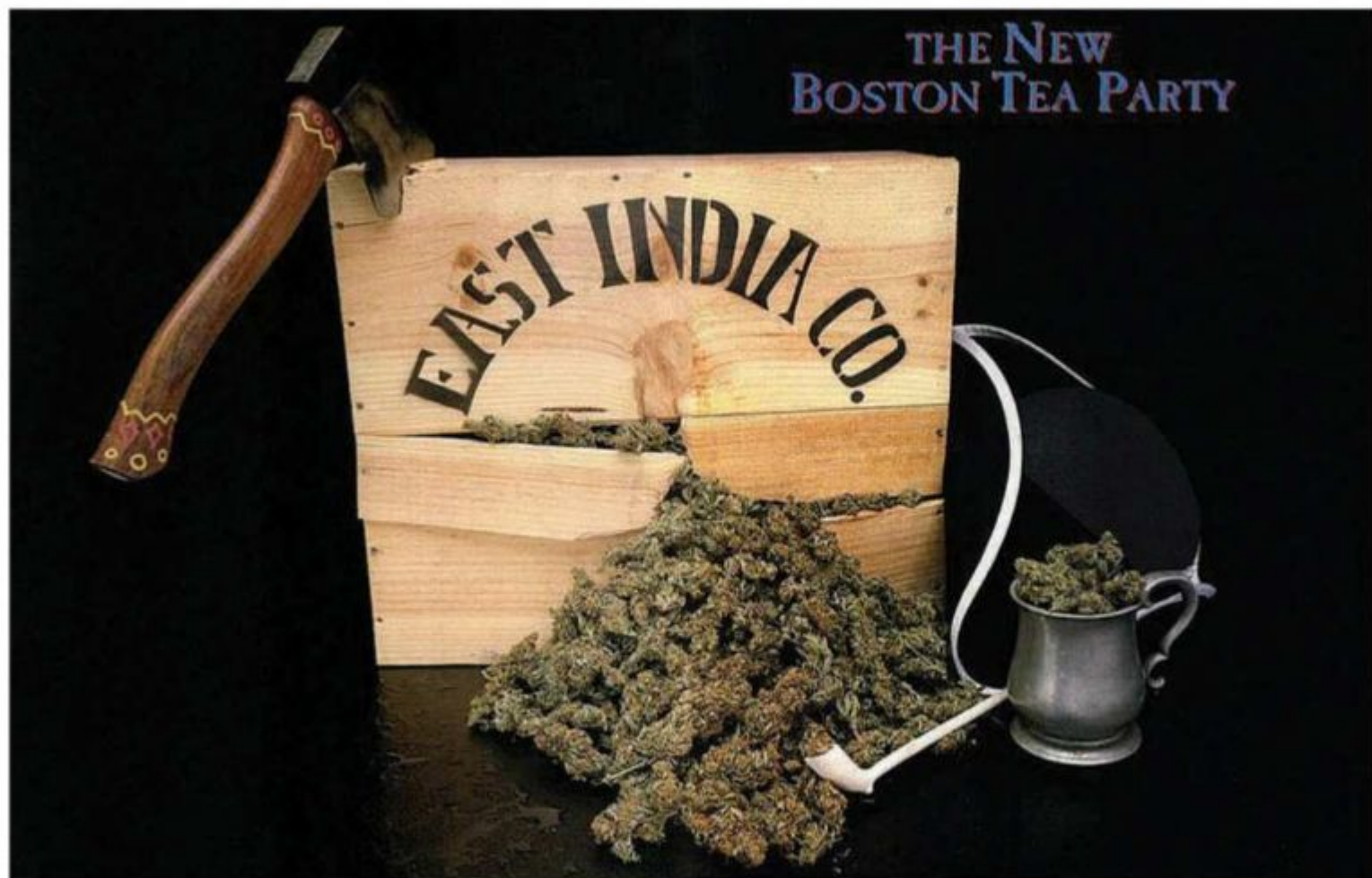




# THE 80'S

**ABOVE:** Dubbed "Dope in Space," this centerfold illustrates what's possible when a magazine staff gets high and contemplates the question, "What if there was marijuana in outer space?" The shoot produced this centerfold, plus the cover (featuring a joint rocketing to the moon) and a second double-page spread (featuring a toy plane navigating through an asteroid field comprised of chunks of cocaine) for our June 1981 issue. **BELOW:** In our July 1988 issue, we celebrated the rebellious spirit of the Founding Fathers with our

own take on the Boston Tea Party. While *High Times* has always supported patriotic protest as a way to win freedom for cannabis consumers from an oppressive government, it would be awfully tough to dump all of that beautiful East India Company weed into the harbor...





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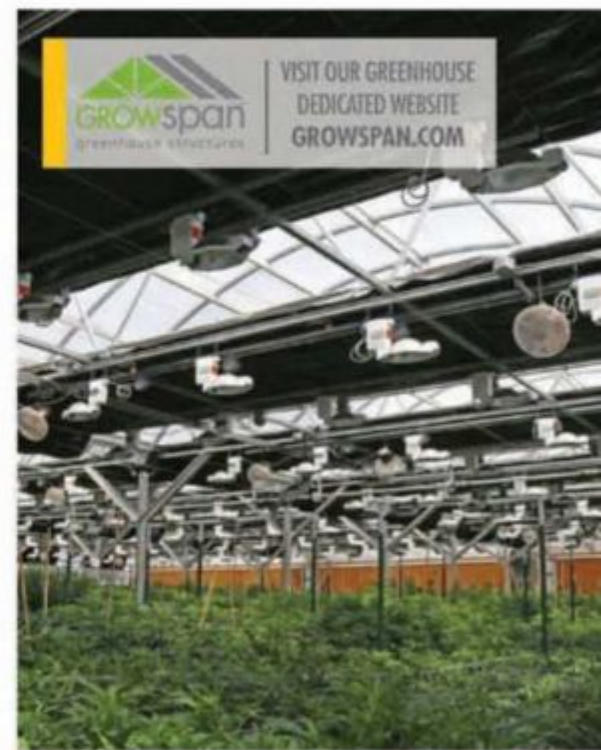
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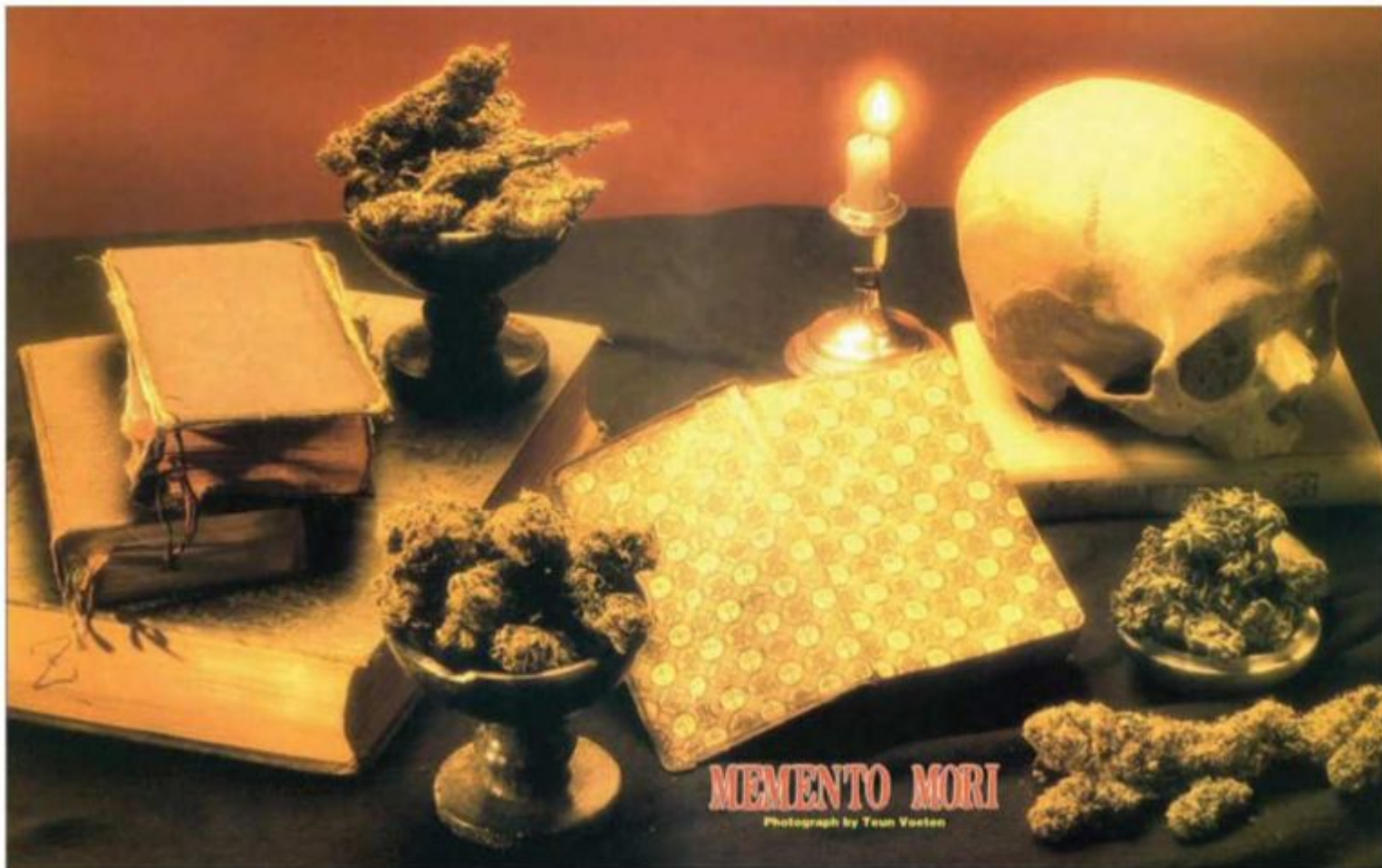
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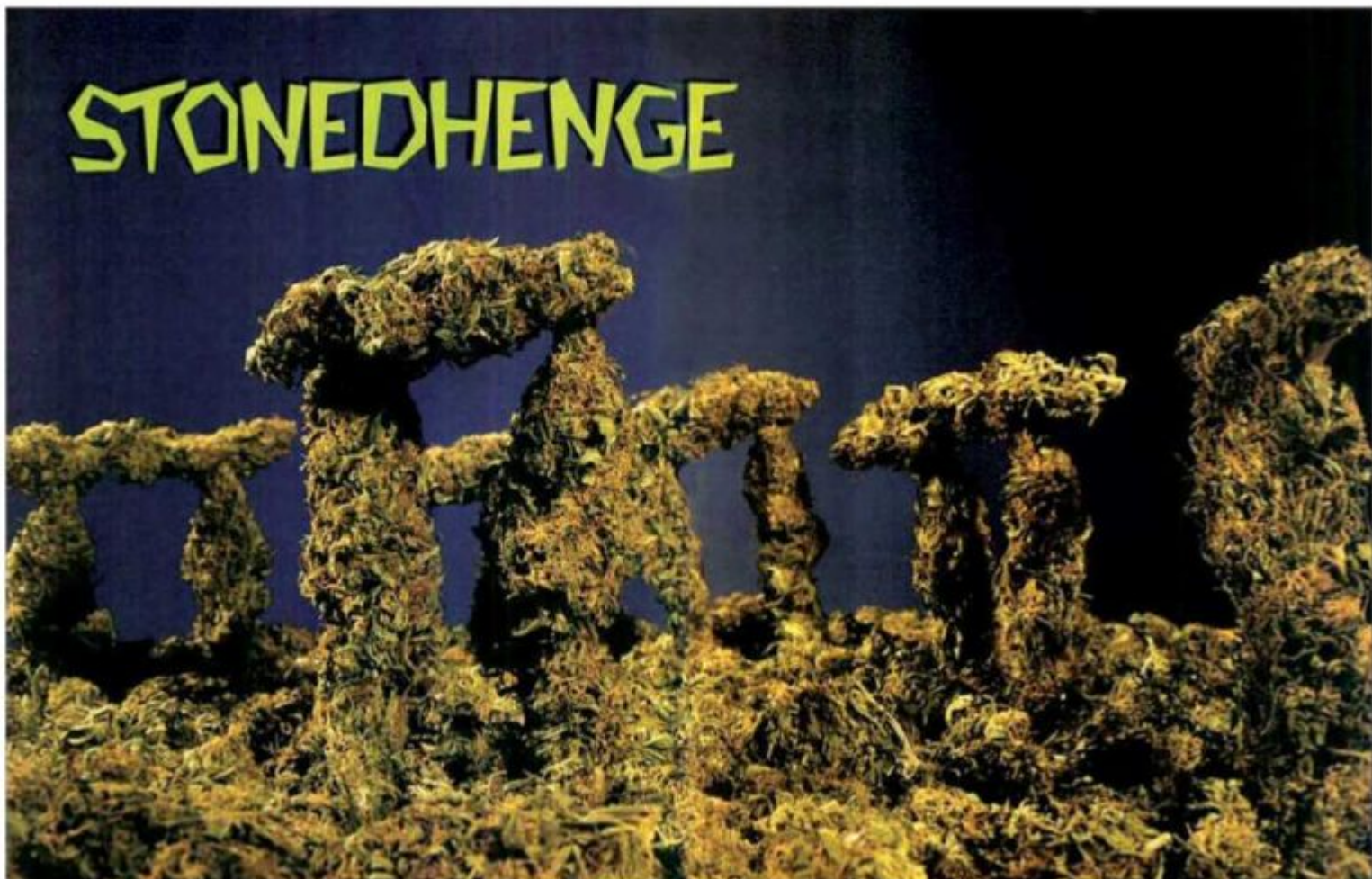




# THE 90'S

**ABOVE:** Our November 1990 centerfold reminded readers that life is fleeting. *Memento mori* is a Latin phrase meaning "Remember that you must die." It was also a popular artistic motif over the centuries, inspiring paintings that usually included a skull, an hourglass and burning candles. Our take on *Memento mori* featured a few of those classic symbols along with some primo pot, as if to say: "Life is too short to smoke bad weed."

**BELOW:** Located in Wiltshire, England, and erected around 3000 BC, Stonehenge has been baffling archaeologists and scholars since its discovery. Our homage, Stonedhenge, was erected at the High Times office for our September 1995 issue and taken down and consumed shortly thereafter. While it may not be as awe-inspiring as the original, Stonedhenge is nonetheless an impressive feat of cannabis construction.



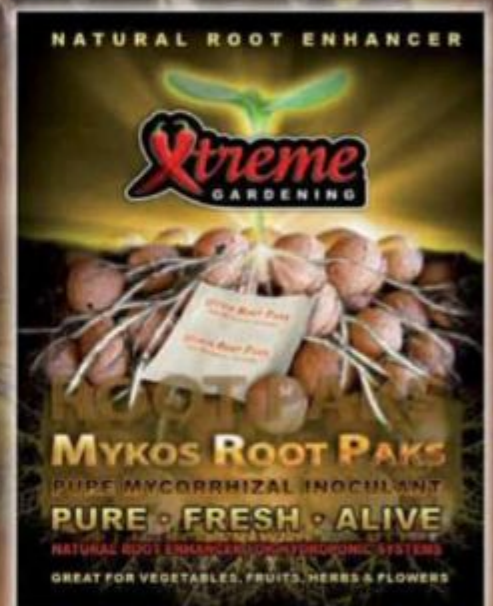


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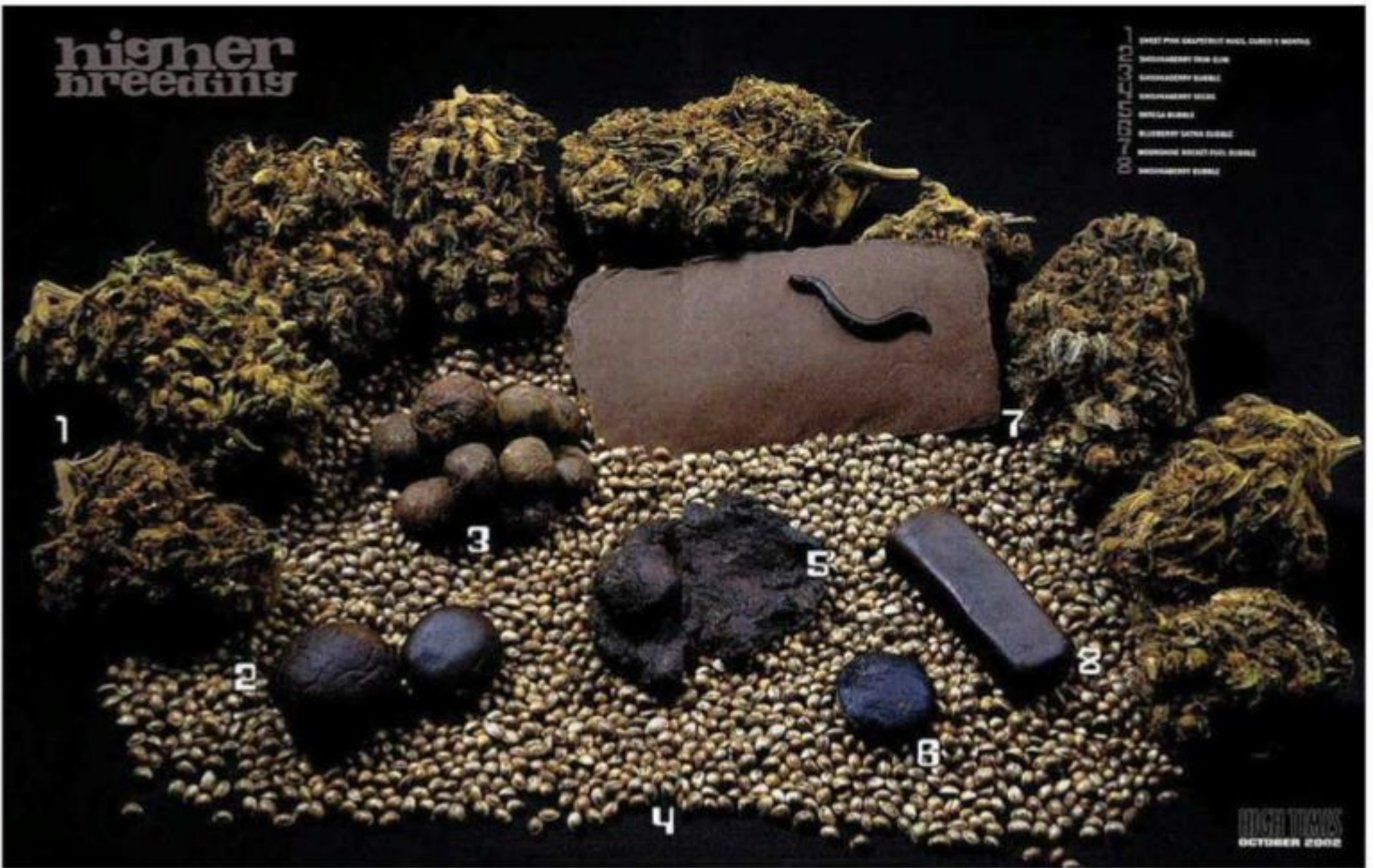
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# THE 2000'S

ABOVE: Think of this still life from our October 2002 issue as the granddaddy of all those Instagram photos of meticulously manicured buds posed next to various waxes and shatters. This shot, which predates both Instagram and the concentrate craze, features a ring of Sweet Pink Grapefruit surrounding five different kinds of hash on a bed of seeds. BELOW: An article on the rise of surfer smugglers in the 1960s and '70s blossomed into an ambitious shoot

with a surfboard, a starfish and a pound of The Gift. Long-time *High Times* photog Freebie snapped this beachside shot, and if you're having trouble with the perspective, take our word for it: That's a lot of pot.





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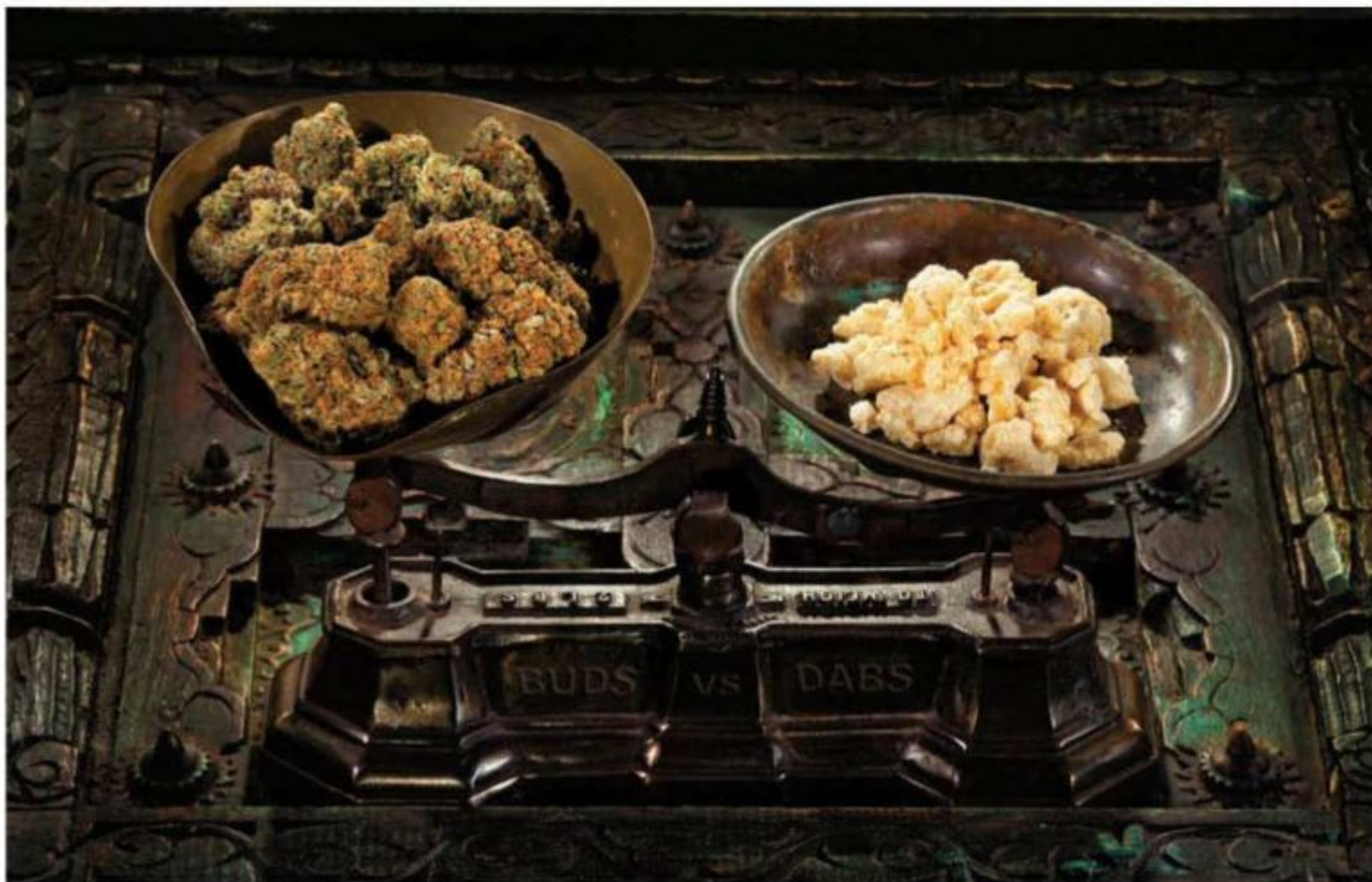
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# THE 2010'S

**ABOVE:** As more and more smokers converted to concentrates in the early part of the decade, *High Times* asked the question: "Is 710 the new 420?" Never much for subtlety, we had one of our favorite pot photographers, Justin Cannabis, grab a scale and literally weigh the contenders—buds on one side, dabs on the other—for our July 2013 issue.

**BELOW:** Sometimes a strain name kick-starts creativity. Such was the case for this epic still life featuring Jack Sparrow.

Once again, we turned to Justin Cannabis, who put together this pirate-themed pic, complete with an irie ship sailing on a sea of green. We're guessing plenty of readers were dreaming of walking the plank after seeing our February 2017 issue. 🌿





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**Tarantula**—Its beneficial bacteria inoculate the roots, safeguarding them by competing with and warding off harmful bacteria that can infect your plants. Reduces tissue damage from heavy fertilizer salts. Increases plant growth and yields by releasing grow and bloom cofactors and aiding chlorophyll, so your high-intensity lighting is more effective.

**Microbial Munch**—Maximize your microbes! Support, strengthen and maximize the benefits from all the beneficial microbes and fungi. It's a "superfood"—exactly what your plants need to transform into bigger, stronger, more resilient, and more beneficial creatures. In short, it's like putting them on steroids.

BUD AID  
TRIBE



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**Sensi Cal-Mag Xtra**—If you're using base nutrients made by other companies, your crops could be deficient, leading to stunted growth and yellowing leaves. You can prevent that with Sensi Cal-Mag Xtra, the only calcium and magnesium supplement formulated with the exact Ca, Mg, and Fe ratios unique to the high-value plants we grow.

**Revive**—Guaranteed to rejuvenate your crops if they get into nutrient-deficiency trouble—which can happen if something unexpected and beyond your control occurs...or you're using inferior nutrients. Save plants in distress by adding it to your nutrient solution or using it as a foliar spray at the first sign of trouble. These rejuvenating substances flood the plant with healing nutrition. Use it at the first sign of trouble and your precious plants will get their best chance not only to survive, but thrive!

BUD POTENCY  
& STALK  
STRENGTHENERS  
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**Rhino Skin**—Increases trichomes and essential oils for more potent harvests. Your crops will stand up straighter and support bulkier, heavier buds. You'll get big, sticky, potent harvests with greater market value.

**Bud Factor X**—Triggers systemic acquired silencing (SAR) within plants to produce markedly higher amounts of essential oils and terpenoids, which directly benefit taste, aroma, and resin production, giving you higher-quality crops with greater market value.

**B-52**—Amplifies overall plant metabolism, promotes strong root development, boosts growth and helps your crops fight off stresses such as intense light, cold weather, ozone, drought, and salinity.

CROP  
SUBSTRATE  
SUPERCHARGERS  
TRIBE



**THE MOST  
OVERLOOKED  
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GETTING POUNDS OF BUDS**

**Sensizym**—Specifically formulated enzymes that scour the root zone, removing debris and eradicating disease by "recycling" it into usable carbohydrates that fuel bud growth and boost yields. Growers report it also decomposes root zone debris so well, you can often reuse growing media such as rockwool and coco coir for another crop lifecycle—saving you money!

**Ancient Earth Organic**—A rich combination of humic and fulvic acid that will help transform your growing medium into a richer, healthier, more vibrant foundation for your crops while pumping up their roots. Also stabilize the pH and optimize nutrient delivery. Helps plants withstand disease, drought, and other environmental stresses.



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BIGGER BUDS TRIBE

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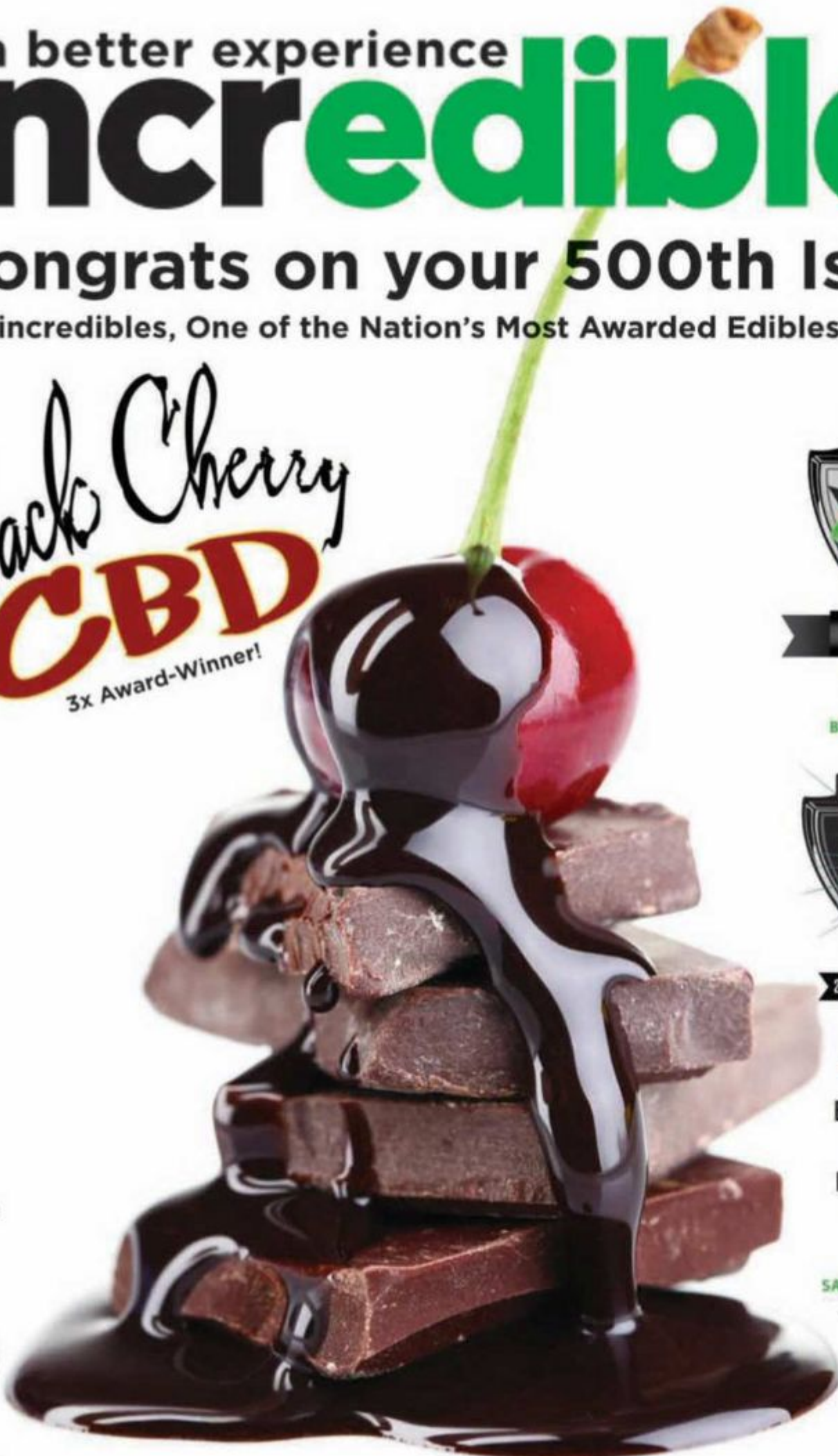
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# A “Nico’s Nuggets” Special: **From Seed to Smoke**

The 10 basic steps for growing your own at home *By Nico Escondido*

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** EVER, WE’VE DECIDED TO MOVE OUR POPULAR DIGITAL COLUMN, “NICO’S NUGGETS,” INTO THE HALLOWED PAGES OF *HIGH TIMES* AS PART OF OUR 500TH-ISSUE CELEBRATION! AND FOR THE OCCASION, WE’VE SELECTED THE SINGLE MOST-ASKED QUESTION FROM OUR GROWERS’ MAILBAG, ANSWERED HERE IN LONG-FORM PRINT.

HERE IS THE QUESTION: CAN YOU PLEASE LIST ALL OF THE NECESSARY STEPS I NEED TO KNOW FROM SEED TO HARVEST? (ASKED, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, MORE THAN 680 TIMES SINCE THE START OF 2017.) WELL, THE ANSWER USUALLY REQUIRES AT LEAST A BOOK (OR SEVERAL, DEPENDING ON HOW FAR YOU WANT TO TAKE IT), BUT WE’RE GOING TO ATTEMPT IT HERE IN 10 EASY-TO-FOLLOW STEPS. GOOD LUCK, EVERYONE... WHO KNOWS, MAYBE YOU’LL BE OUR NEXT CANNABIS CUP CHAMPION!



Clones offer uniformity and easy access from local dispensaries.



Seeds can be more vigorous in growth, but harder to find—unless they’re in your buds!

## Step 1: **Get Some Seeds (or Clones)**

We start off by answering the second-most-asked question: “Where do I get seeds?” Indeed, in today’s world of feminized seeds and sinsemilla (Spanish for “without seeds”) bud, it’s more difficult than ever to find a few beans in your eighth of weed.

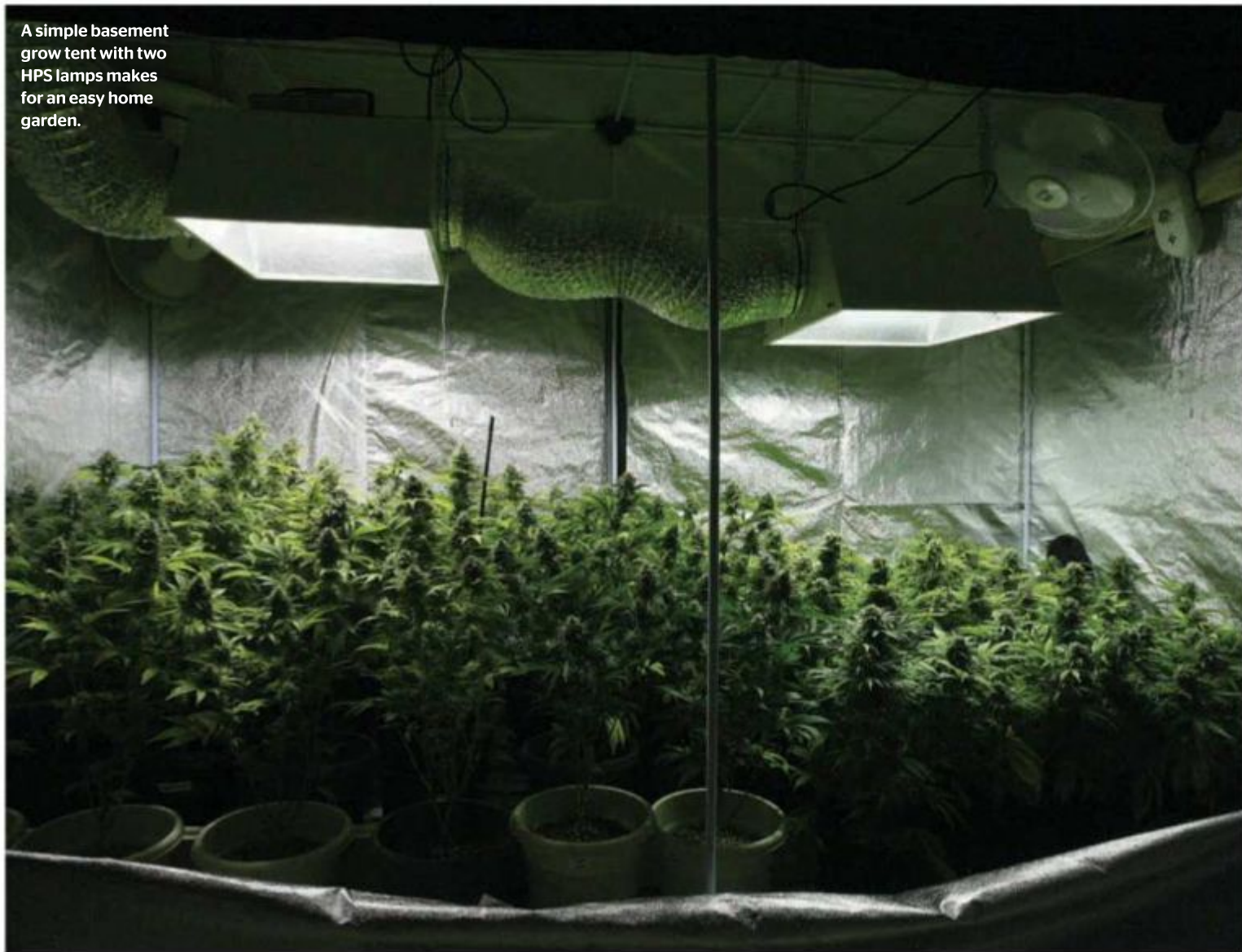
The solution, if you live in a medical or recreational state, is to find a local dispensary that sells clones, check them closely for mites and mold, and away you go. Of course, for more than half of the United States, and in many other narrow-minded countries across the globe, this is simply not a reality. Instead, these folks need to rely on some good old-fashioned rebels, mainly the offshore seeds banks shrewdly located in places where seeds aren’t illegal to possess or sell. Some of these seed banks will ship worldwide—at the buyer’s risk. Still, quite a few

of them do manage to get their seed packs through customs to your door with a bit of ingenious packaging. But, as always, the first rule is never to have your seeds shipped to the same address where your garden will be! And the second rule is to read the fine print on these companies’ websites, as many claim that they’ll ship “worldwide,” but then list the countries that they won’t ship to (including the US)—so once you send that money order, you can kiss your allowance goodbye.

This is definitely one of the harder obstacles to overcome when it comes to growing your own head stash, but you’d be surprised how word of mouth and simply asking around can get you a few gems to sprout at home. However, if you’re feeling bold and want to undertake a seed-bank adventure, you might check out the following sites: [bcbuddepot.com](http://bcbuddepot.com); [dinafem.org](http://dinafem.org); [bigbuddhaseeds.com](http://bigbuddhaseeds.com); and [cannabis-seeds-bank.co.uk](http://cannabis-seeds-bank.co.uk).



A simple basement grow tent with two HPS lamps makes for an easy home garden.



## Step 2: Choose Your Space and Your Light

Whether you're planning to grow indoors or out, finding a smart and secure space is critical to the success of your garden. The most important aspects to consider are its dimensions (especially height), security and, of course, light.

Outdoor growers should make sure that the area they choose is a large, secluded clearing free of shrubs, brush and overhanging trees that can shade out a garden. Southern-facing clearings are usually the best option in North America, as they enjoy the most sunlight during daytime hours. It's also important to keep in mind that while a plot may appear clear in the early spring, a host of weeds, shrubbery and tree branches may be present by midsummer. Thus, clearing the ground of all vegetative matter and trimming back nearby tree branches (or, even better, not having any trees nearby at all) is imperative.

Indoor growers will want to consider the overall height of their garden space, taking into account the fact that a lamp will likely hang approximately 2 feet below the ceiling and plants should only grow to within 18 inches of the light, thereby eliminating at least 3.5 feet from the overall height of the space. This is one of several reasons why attics often prove to be inadequate as grow spaces—not to mention that heat rises in homes, which usually makes an attic space too hot for an indoor garden.

Basements, empty garages and spare bedrooms often provide the best spaces for home grows. When you factor in the newest all-in-one solutions for indoor gardens, such as grow

tents, grow cabinets, or plug-and-play hydroponic systems, the solution to the puzzle quickly takes shape. Indoor tents are probably the most popular option for home growers these days, as they usually come in package deals that also include garden pots, medium, nutrients, fans, filters and lighting, thereby offering beginner growers a turn-key operation right out of the box. More experienced growers can simply buy the grow tent in almost any size footprint they want and then build and customize the garden to their own specifications.

The most important aspect of the indoor garden will be the lighting used; most failed attempts are the direct result of growers cutting corners on their lamps. While it's understandable to want to eliminate heat emissions and high power draws, gardens that don't deploy high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps will pay for it with low yields and low potency. Metal halide (MH) lights are the norm for plants in the vegetative stage, while high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights are recommended for flowering plants.

Although compact fluorescents and LEDs are excellent sources of supplemental lighting for HID lamps—especially under the canopy or along the sides of the garden—there are few of these on the market today that can be used as stand-alone grow lights to take a garden to harvest. LEDs that are intended as solo lamps need to provide full-spectrum white light, but these usually cost quite a bit more than traditional HID lights, while also consuming just as much electricity. For small indoor gardens, a 250- or 400-watt HID light will do the job nicely.



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This coco-based soilless mix looks and feels like regular dirt but is better suited for indoor grows.

### Step 3: Choose Your Medium and Containers

Whether you're growing indoors or out, the next step is deciding the type of medium you'll cultivate your plants in, especially since the root zone is extremely important to a plant's growth and development. Containers can be just as important, since the containers and medium work together to hold water and oxygen for the roots—two essential components for a happy, healthy garden.

Outdoor growers have the luxury of using actual dirt or topsoil, in addition to compost and soil amendments, for their gardens. Most outdoor growers take advantage of these options, while indoor growers are limited to the more sterile and inert grow mediums. In fact, indoor growers don't use soil at all these days; instead, they use "soilless" mediums, which look and feel very similar to traditional topsoil, but are really peat-, sphagnum- or coco-based substrates. These mediums act just as regular soils would, offering excellent buffering for root systems and holding plenty of moisture and air for roots to absorb during the day.

"Smart" pots (with holes around the sides and bottom), or fabric pots made with cloth material, are fast becoming some of the most popular containers among indoor cultivators. These pots are extremely breathable, allowing air to permeate the root zone, which is important because the roots breathe in oxygen at night (while the rest of the plant breathes in CO<sub>2</sub> during the day). They also offer ample drainage so that excess water doesn't build up, compress the medium, and become stagnant at the bottom of the containers, which can contribute to root rot.

Popular two-part nutrients like these Black Label products make it easier for beginner growers.



### Step 4: Nutrients

Selecting the proper nutrients is an important consideration for any grow. Plants need the minerals found in nutrients to aid in photosynthesis and sugar production. But it's important to remember that the nutrients we "feed" our plants aren't the actual food they use for energy, but rather are part of a process that allows the plants to create their own food in the form of glucose.

Start by looking at the N-P-K (nitrogen/phosphorous/potassium) ratio listed on the nutrient products. Typically, nutrient lines consist of two parts, a "Grow" formula and a "Bloom" formula. Grow formulas contain more nitrogen, while Bloom formulas have N-P-K ratios higher in phosphorous and potassium. These ratios correspond to the plants' needs during their vegetative and flowering stages of growth.

New growers are often reminded to start slow and low when dosing their gardens with nutrients, because it's far worse to overfeed your plants than it is to underfeed them. Read the labels carefully and then mix a milder nutrient solution at one-half to two-thirds of the recommended dose. After a week to 10 days, if you see signs of discoloration or general deficiencies, you can increase the dose to the recommended levels. But if your plants are looking strong and healthy, you will have saved some money on nutrients and also avoided one of the biggest mistakes encountered by first-time growers. Remember, overfeeding can lead to nutrient burn in the root zone or, even worse, a buildup of excess salts in the medium, which can cause nutrient lockup, blocking the roots from absorbing the necessary minerals for important biological processes like photosynthesis.

Another way to avoid excess salts is to use organic fertilizers, compost teas or veganic nutrients. Organic and veganic nutes may be a bit more expensive than their synthetic counterparts, but they're not salt-based and are easier for your plants to break down and absorb at the root level. Data collected and analyzed over the past five years at the various High Times Cannabis Cups show that organic and veganic lines go further than synthetic nutes in unlocking the maximum genetic potential of cannabis strains in terms of their cannabinoid and terpene production.

Many outdoor growers choose not to feed their gardens directly, but rather use a composted medium that comes loaded with the minerals that plants need for development and growth. Other outdoor growers who can't tend to their gardens on a daily basis utilize time-release nutrients in pellet form that dissolve slowly and seep into the medium for uptake by the plants.





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Vegging plants are topped early on to create bushy plants for both flowering and cloning.

### Step 5: **The Vegetative Stage**

The vegetative stage is crucial to a plant's final success, especially where yields are concerned. In general, the longer a plant is kept in veg, the more it will develop, producing a greater yield at harvest time. The vegetative stage of a plant's lifecycle usually lasts anywhere from two weeks to two months, depending on the grower's preference (or the time of year it was planted, if the garden is outdoors).

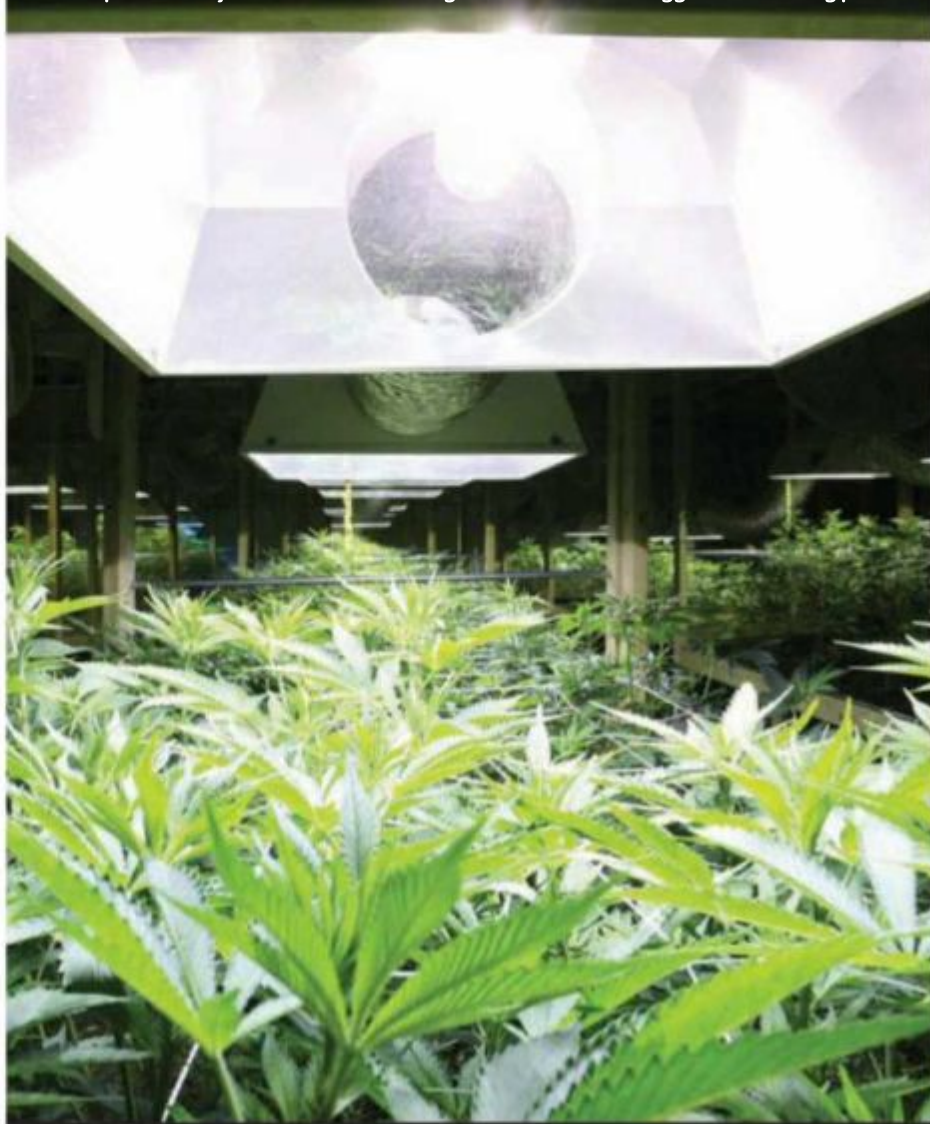
For plants to remain in the vegetative stage, they must receive more than 12 hours of light to keep them from flowering. Most indoor growers will keep plants under a minimum of 18 hours of light per day during the veg cycle. However, since the roots grow mostly during the dark cycle (or at night), allowing your plants some "down time" during veg is a good way to ensure vigorous development.

Growers utilize MH bulbs during the vegetative stage, since these lights are heavier in the blue wavelengths that help keep plants from stretching. This produces plants that are squatter and bushier, with shorter internodal lengths (the distance between branches on the main stem). This in turn helps save space indoors, but it also produces more budding sites, which typically occur at the nodes where the branches meet the stem, thereby helping to increase yields as well.

The vegetative stage is also important when it comes to training and pruning your plants. Smart pruning techniques, such as "topping" or "pinching off," entail removing the top terminal shoot of the main stalk toward the end of the veg cycle. This causes the plant to release growth hormones that result in added shoots growing out from directly under the place where the terminal shoot was removed. These new shoots at the top of the plant can become large colas during the flowering stage.

Indoor and outdoor growers alike can use these techniques in conjunction with a trellis system, which opens up the garden to better light penetration and helps to induce longer branching with more nodal sites for flower production. A trellis system is also an excellent support structure for plants once they begin to produce heavy buds, but the trellis needs to be placed over the plants—and their growing shoots trained into its open spaces—early in the vegetative stage.

These plants were just moved under HPS lights (12 hours on) to trigger the flowering phase.



### Step 6: **The Flowering Stage**

The flowering stage of cannabis plants occurs when the photoperiod (or light cycle) of the garden drops to 12 hours or less. In nature, outdoor gardens will begin to flower after the summer solstice, usually around July (depending on latitude), when the sunlight falls below this 12-hour threshold. Indoor growers set their lights on a timer using a 12-hours-on/12-hours-off cycle. Most cannabis strains flower after 56 to 65 days (eight to nine weeks). *Sativas* generally take longer than *indicas*, but since the majority of today's cannabis varieties are hybrids, this can vary greatly from strain to strain.

As a general rule, a cannabis plant will grow another 30 to 50 percent of its final size in the flowering stage. Growers typically use HPS bulbs during this period, as these lights emit a spectrum heavier in the red wavelengths to more closely mimic the autumn sun, helping to spur faster flowering (and finishing) times. However, these red wavelengths can also cause plants to stretch a bit. Thus, savvy indoor growers will use a mix of MH and HPS lighting to provide a broader spectrum for their flowering plants, with the MH bulbs helping to curb stretching as well as providing added light energy, in the form of photons, to the garden. (Note: The shorter wavelengths, such as blue light, carry higher concentrations of photons.)

Diligent pruning in the flowering stage is very helpful toward increasing yields and potency. Removing deficient or necrotic leaves, especially larger, older growth, can help redirect the plant's energy to the bud sites. Many leaves will begin to turn yellow toward the end of the flowering stage, which is normal and an indication of the dwindling amounts of nitrogen in the medium and plants. Nearly every bloom formula has a lower level of nitrogen in its N-P-K ratio, as the plants need less of this mineral during flowering and more of phosphorous (P) and potassium (K).



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## Step 7: Flushing

Flushing the plants and the medium is an essential and underrated aspect of any grow. Whether you're eating vegetables or smoking cannabis, the final product should be devoid of any residual minerals that will make the product harsh and unhealthy. This is especially important in the age of concentrates, where residual mineral deposits, pesticides and solvents can pile up to toxic levels for human consumption.

Most advanced growers will do a minimum flush with fresh water only for the entire final week of the flowering stage. Some growers prefer longer flushes of up to two weeks. During the flushing period, leaves will become extremely yellow and discolored as nutrients are leached from the plant. This will make for a smoother smoke, with the cannabis burning to a clean, white ash rather than a black, tar-like ball.

These buds are 6.5 weeks into flowering with leaves starting to yellow due to flushing.



These cut branches from outdoor plants are hung in a dark, dry space with lots of airflow.



Buds curing in jars before being sold in a CO dispensary

## Step 8: Cutting and Drying

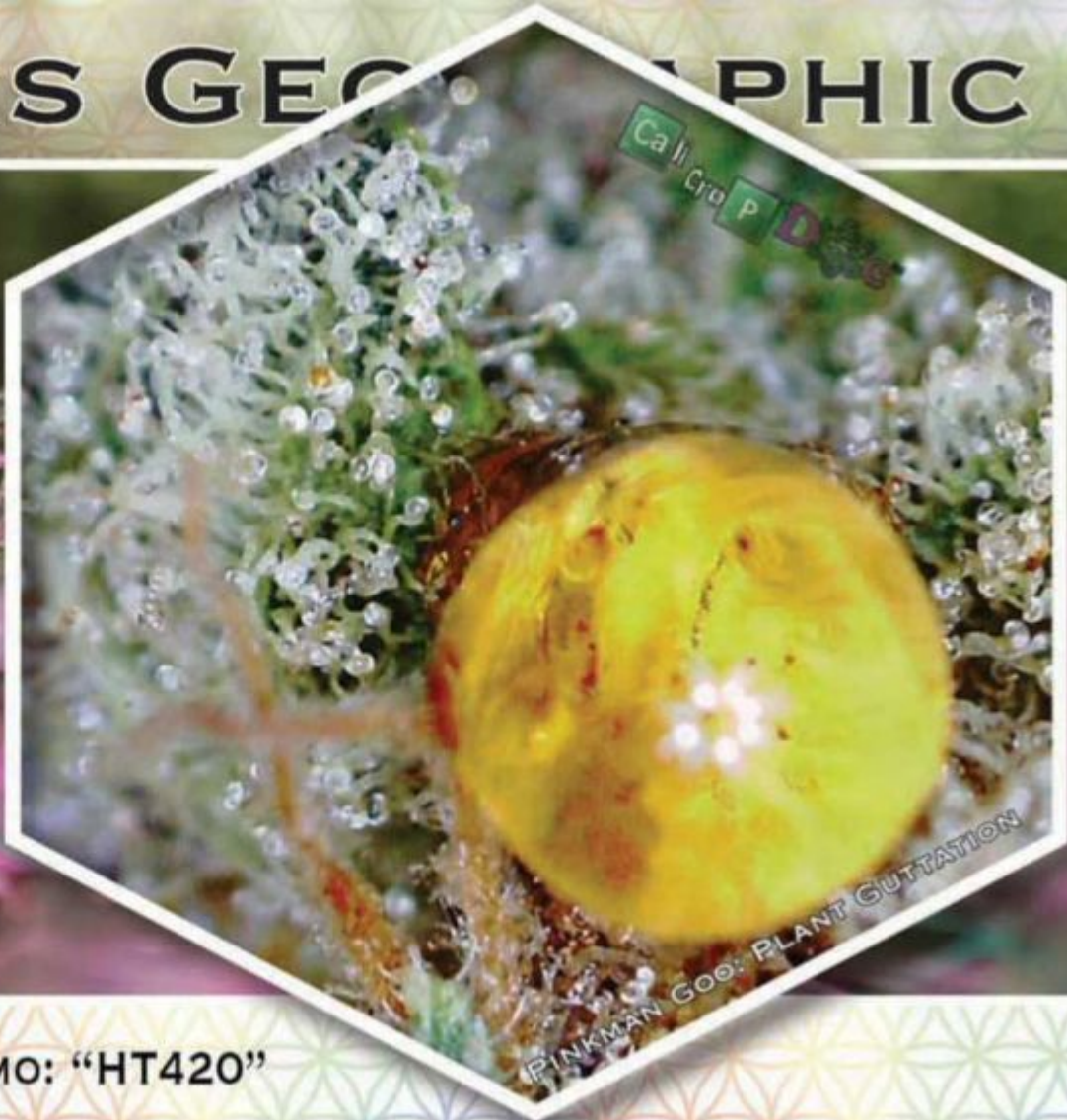
You've finally made it: harvest time! The reward for all your hard work is close at hand—but don't rush it now. There are many acceptable methods for cutting down cannabis plants and drying the flowers. In general, the basic rule of thumb dictates that growers cut down their plants at the end of the daily dark cycle, just as the lights are coming on or the sun is rising. This allows the plants to be harvested in a dormant state, before they begin physiological processes like photosynthesis, which will draw moisture and minerals back up into the plant from the root system.

Rather than cutting a plant at its base, one popular technique is to remove the individual branches starting at the top of the plant. For this method, the branches are cut just before the first shoot on each branch, thereby creating a convenient "V" notch near the base from which it can be hung upside down on a line or hanger. Be sure to label each branch with the strain name and plant number so as to avoid any confusion further down the line (such as during the trimming or curing).

Once they're cut, hang the branches upside down in a dark, dry place for five to seven days. Be sure that plenty of air is being circulated around the flowers using floor and wall fans. Use a hygrometer to check the room's humidity, and deploy dehumidifiers if the humidity in the drying room rises above 50%. Remember that the flowers are 85% water, and you can expect the final dry weight of the buds to be about 15% of their wet weight when originally cut at harvest.



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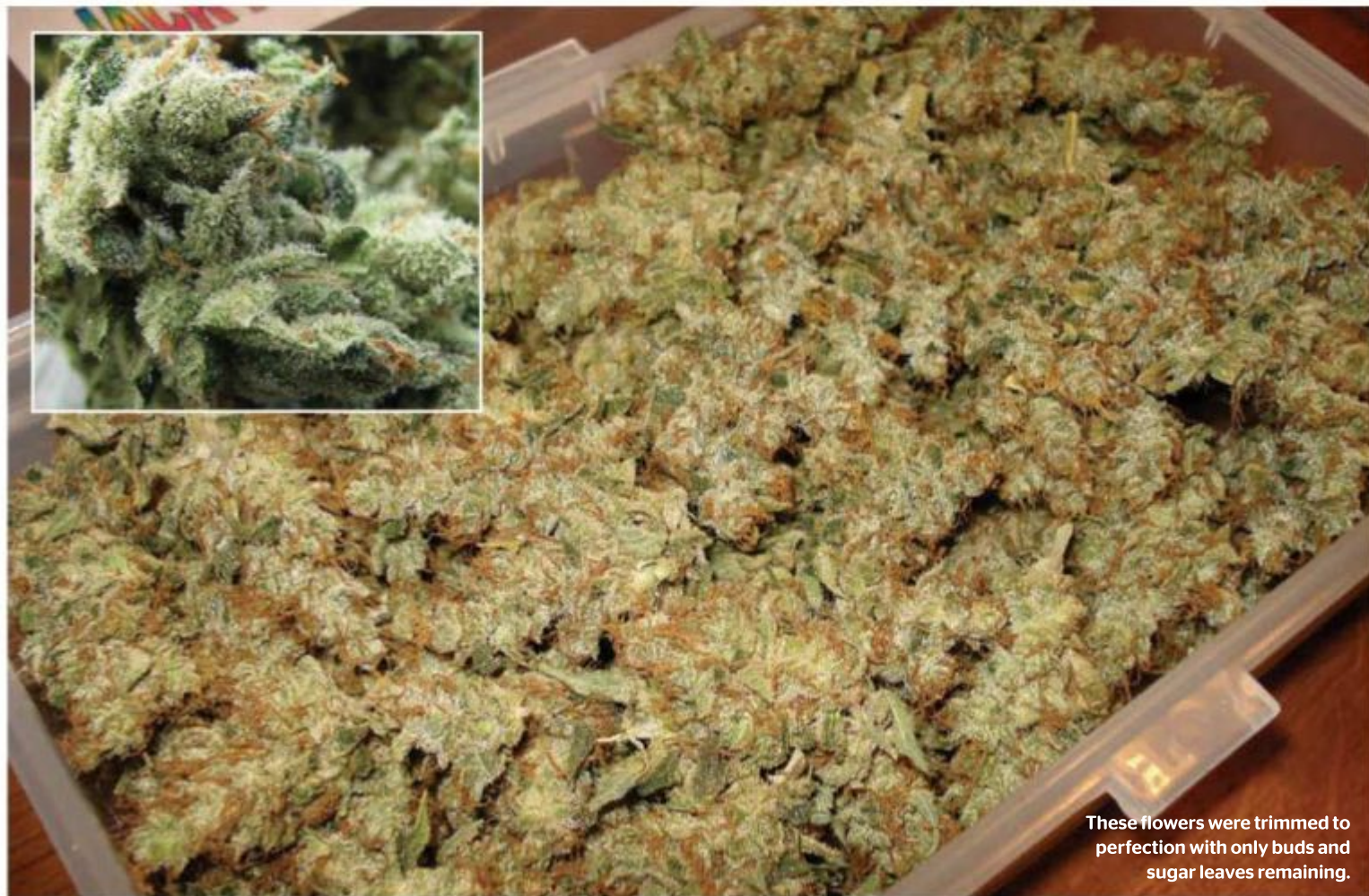
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These flowers were trimmed to perfection with only buds and sugar leaves remaining.

### Step 9: **Trimming and Curing**

Perhaps the most overlooked step in terms of the quality of the final product is this one, particularly where curing is concerned. But before the curing starts, the buds must be trimmed and manicured. Large commercial operations sometimes deploy trim machines to aid in the workload; however, veteran growers know that the best method for manicuring flowers is to trim them by hand.

There are competing opinions about whether it's better to wet-trim or dry-trim. The latter occurs after drying, whereas the former occurs immediately following harvest, while the plant is still alive and "wet." Some growers find it easier to dry-trim, when the leaves have less moisture and don't stick to the buds as much. Conversely, other growers feel that trimming dry buds can knock off or damage the valuable trichomes. Either way, the buds need to be trimmed prior to the start of the curing process, and it might be more efficient for new growers to trim after drying so that the manicured flowers can go directly into the curing jars.

Sometimes growers are so excited (or relieved) after the harvest that they forget just how integral the curing of the buds is to their final quality. In short, curing is just a much slower drying process, which can last anywhere from a week to a month or two depending on the grower's preference. Some connoisseurs prefer a longer and deeper cure to draw out the ultimate essence of the flower. Of course, there is always a point of diminishing returns after a certain length of time.

One of the best methods of curing consists of using UV-protected glass jars. The buds are placed in these jars and then kept in a cool, dry place out of direct light, with the jars being "burped" once or twice daily to allow the slowly evaporating moisture to escape. Leaving the jars open for five to 10 minutes at a time will do the trick nicely. Some people like to use larger jars, or bins, for curing larger amounts of flower. However, be wary of using plastic containers or bins for curing, as plastic can often impart an unwanted smell to your buds.

After about a week to 10 days, the buds should be dried and cured to a nearly pristine point. Each time you open the jars, you will smell more and more of the buds' aromatic bouquet as the more volatile compounds—known as the terpene profile—begin to present themselves. Finally, once you—the grower!—know that the time is right, you can proceed to the final step...



### Step 10: **Smoke That Herb!**

Congratulations! There is nothing in the world quite like smoking your own homegrown cannabis... and, hopefully, the process itself was a fun and rewarding experience.

Thanks for reading and celebrating our 500th issue of *High Times*. And remember: Grow... and help the world grow, too! 🌿

Follow Nico on social media: @Nico\_Escondido (Twitter) and @Nico\_High\_Times (Instagram). Got questions? E-mail 'em to Nico at [NicosNuggets@hightimes.com](mailto:NicosNuggets@hightimes.com), and be sure to put "Nico's Nuggets" in the subject line. (Tip: Before sending your question, try the new search feature on the *High Times* website. Simply click the magnifier icon at the top right and type "Nico + [your subject]" to see if your question has already been answered.)





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# The Best Cannabis Dispensaries

**In states that have legalized marijuana**, either for medical or recreational use, dispensaries are forever changing the practice of buying buds. Visiting these pot shops can be an eye-opening experience for those who have only known the limited options, questionable quality and legal dangers of black-market buys. But with so many dispensaries cropping up across the country, it can be hard to know which ones truly excel.

If you're seeking a better cannabis-buying experience, look no further than *High Times'* picks for the best marijuana dispensaries in America. We've selected over 70 medical and recreational pot shops around the country that stand out for their elite and extensive inventories, awesome environments and superb staffs.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**The Bay Area is the birthplace of the modern marijuana dispensary, thanks to the pot pioneers who boldly opened the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club in 1992—four years before the passage of Proposition 215, the state's landmark medical marijuana law. That compassionate spirit is still at the heart of the region's dispensaries, which offer everything from boutique buds to the legendary outdoor cannabis of the Emerald Triangle. The Bay also boasts some of the country's best makers of concentrates, edibles and topicals. Here are our picks for the best shops in NorCal.**

### 1841 El Camino

This large and beautiful dispensary has one of the widest selections of top-shelf meds and edibles anywhere in the state—plus the helpful staff makes shopping here a joy. Frequent barbecues and community events have turned this shop into a social hub for stoners in the Golden State's capital. [1841elcamino.com](http://1841elcamino.com)

### Barbary Coast

This location has a swank decor and heady menu, but that's just for starters—it also has a full dab and vape bar. Many of the items on the menu are available for less than \$10. It's a great place to pop in for a buzz before dinner or a night out in San Francisco. Barbary Coast offers a glimpse of what the future may look like once public-consumption issues are finally behind us. [barbary-coastsf.org](http://barbary-coastsf.org)



### CannaCruz

Quality medicine is job one for CannaCruz: The staff here takes safe access to clean meds seriously. Located in the surfer and hippie paradise of Santa Cruz, this dispensary has a surf-shop feel to it. When you visit CannaCruz, get yourself a pre-roll (they actually have great pre-rolls... seriously) and head to the dog beach for a blaze and a sunset. [cannacruz.com](http://cannacruz.com)

### CBCB (Cannabis Buyers Club Berkeley)

Great weed coupled with a community feel make this Berkeley shop a local institution. Free fruit and snacks, chess boards and books give this place a real rec-center vibe. An upbeat DJ spinning music and a large menu with very fair pricing make CBCB

a great place to get your medical buds and then enjoy a pickup game of chess with one of the locals. [cbcbberkeley.com](http://cbcbberkeley.com)

### Compassionate Heart Collective

This gem, located at the gateway to the Emerald Triangle, is an old-school Deadhead's paradise. It's also a great place to see what the outdoor scene in NorCal has to offer. The unique outdoor variety this collective brings to the table comes at a completely reasonable price—a great shop with great value. [compassionate-heartukiah.blogspot.com](http://compassionate-heartukiah.blogspot.com)

### Elemental Wellness

Elemental Wellness provides the model that all medical dispensaries should aspire to. Not only do they offer free massage, yoga

and acupuncture, but they also carry some of the best cannabis in the world, in addition to a customer-loyalty program that earns you free weed with frequent purchases. Plus their True OG can be a life-changer—don't leave without grabbing some. [elementalwellnesscenter.com](http://elementalwellnesscenter.com)

### Emerald Pharms

World-famous Emerald Pharms is a tourist destination for people interested in sustainable living and farming. This "permaculture oasis" is an off-the-grid, solar-powered, self-sustaining organic farm as well as a warm and friendly dispensary with a curated selection of organic goodies. Pack a lunch, bring the dog and spend a little time soaking this place in. [emerald-pharms.com](http://emerald-pharms.com)



# in America

Compiled by the  
High Times Staff

## The Green Door

All of the shops on this list have great service and quality weed in common, but only the Green Door has a collection of original Dr. Seuss artwork on display. Come for the cannabis, stay for the amazing art. The friendly and knowledgeable staff will help you select the perfect strain to enjoy with your green eggs and ham. [greendoorsf.com](http://greendoorsf.com)

## Humboldt Patient Resource Center

This well-stocked shop is located right in the middle of some of the best outdoor activities that California has to offer. Beautiful beaches, redwood forests, pristine hiking trails and the great college-town vibe of Arcata make this shop worth planning a three-day weekend around—and it's also the fountainhead for many great Humboldt growers. [hprcareata.com](http://hprcareata.com)

## Magnolia

Magnolia is a shop with a mission: making life better for patients and making Oakland better for everyone. The social consciousness here is inspiring. Regular educational and social events give members of Magnolia an exciting connection to their community through the herb that brings everyone together. [magnoliawellness.org](http://magnoliawellness.org)

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**With far more dispensaries than any other region of the country, the Los Angeles area represents the epicenter of medical cannabis sales. Kush strains and terpy concentrates rule the roost, while hundreds of edible and topical creators fuel a strong market for quality meds at competitive prices. Now that the LA City Council's moratorium on dispensaries has been ended thanks to Measure M, and with recreational adult use awaiting full implementation in 2018, the sky's the limit for what the**

**pioneers of SoCal can achieve. Here are 10 of our regional faves.**

## Alternative Herbal Health Services (AHHS WeHo)

West Hollywood's source for the fire in every category, AHHS WeHo is celebrating over 14 years of helping patients in need—and the helpful and committed staff here makes the entire experience a pleasure. [ahhsweho.com](http://ahhsweho.com)

## Buds & Roses

This Studio City stalwart boasts some of the best flowers, hash and edibles in the Los Angeles area. Specializing in veganic medicine, B&R places an emphasis on quality and safety. Bonus: Valet parking! [budsandrosesla.com](http://budsandrosesla.com)

## California Herbal Remedies (CHR)

Established in 2007, CHR has a storied history as Kush specialists and Cannabis Cup winners. Their menu has consistently featured over 70 different lab-tested, high-grade flowers and shatters for a decade and counting. [caherbalremedies.com](http://caherbalremedies.com)

## Downtown Patients Group (DTPG)

Since 2007, DTPG has served the patients of downtown LA with a huge selection of strains, hash, edibles, tinctures and topicals, including CBD-rich products. Check out their daily deals and always-reasonable prices. [dtpgla.com](http://dtpgla.com)

## Greenwolf LA

Located on LA's East Side in Los Feliz, Greenwolf provides frosty flowers, clean and tasty concentrates, and a wide variety of edibles and topicals. One visit here and you'll see why this dispensary has won dozens of High Times Cannabis Cups. [facebook.com/greenwolfla](https://www.facebook.com/greenwolfla)

## The Higher Path

Voted *LA Weekly's* Best Dispensary for 2016, this boutique spot



in Sherman Oaks in the San Fernando Valley deserves its many accolades. Everything here is top-shelf, including a wide variety of CBD-rich products. The Higher Path also provides a 10 percent discount to the disabled, seniors, veterans and students. [thehigherpath.com](http://thehigherpath.com)

## Los Angeles Patients & Caregivers Group (LAPCG)

Open since 2004, this pioneer facility provides an incredible selection of flowers and concentrates for patients in need, including some of the best brands in cannabis: Marley Natural, Whoopi & Maya, hmbldt, Apothecanna and Chong's Choice. [lamedicalmarijuana.com](http://lamedicalmarijuana.com)

## MedMen WeHo

Comfortable and clean, with an emphasis on health and wellness, MedMen does a great job of rewarding regulars with

discounts and gifts. They offer a well-curated selection of meds, including gear from Pax, Papa & Barkley, Sprig, Flow Kana, Kiva and more. [medmenweho.com](http://medmenweho.com)

## ShowGrow LA

Everyone should experience this huge (8,000 square feet!) state-of-the-art facility located smack dab in the heart of LA's downtown fashion district. Patients can check out the live growroom and then purchase from a massive variety of high-quality meds. [showgrow.com](http://showgrow.com)

## The WEED (Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary)

Patients looking for quality meds at reasonable prices should check out the WEED in Studio City. The informative budtenders will help you find what's right for you, and the WEED specializes in CBD-rich varieties and products as well. [theweed420.com](http://theweed420.com)





The Clinic

## COLORADO

Colorado was the first US state to legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 and over—and the only state ever to have amended its state constitution to do so. The upshot is a serious and dedicated industry base that has pushed the limits of legal markets, cultivation and culture. These dispensaries not only boast some of the very best cannabis in the country, but they've also set international standards for research, genetics and luxury products.

### The Clinic

One of the original big boys in Big D, the Clinic now spans three states: Colorado, Illinois and Nevada. Winner of awards and accolades across the industry, the Clinic has taken home 14 Cannabis Cups, including several first-place wins for concentrates, flowers and CBD products. [thecliniccolorado.com](http://thecliniccolorado.com)

### Green Man Cannabis (GMC)

With a national reputation for having some of the best growers in the game, Green Man Cannabis is a perennial Cannabis Cup contender whose award-winning strains are among the finest on the planet. In this year's annual HT feature "The Strongest Strains on Earth," GMC boasted two of the top strains, each with

over 26 percent *activated* THC. [greenmancannabis.com](http://greenmancannabis.com)

### The Green Solution

With 15 locations open in 2017, the Green Solution is one of Colorado's largest retail dispensary chains. With a professionally trained staff and an emphasis on customer service, the Green Solution takes its craft seriously—and it shows. The winner of over 15 Cannabis Cups, for everything from extracts to CBD products, this shop's extensive menu provides something for every cannabis consumer, from the patient to the recreational user. [m.tgscolorado.com](http://m.tgscolorado.com)

### The Herbal Cure

Founded in 2010, this iconic Logan Street dispensary is known for its relaxed atmosphere and one of the most knowledgeable staffs in the state. The diverse menu of strains features a blend of local and exotic flavors, including exclusive drops from Essential Extracts in the way of killer rosin and solventless hash. [theherbalcure.net](http://theherbalcure.net)

### House of Dankness

Founded by renowned grower and breeder Scott Reach of Rare Dankness, this Denver dispensary has fast become a force to be reckoned with. After years

of supplying Colorado patients with elite genetics, House of Dankness now has its own Denver storefront along with a brand-new, state-of-the-art grow facility—one the largest in the Southwest. [houseofdankness.com](http://houseofdankness.com)

### MMJ America

With three stores in Denver and a fourth in Boulder, MMJ America is one of the biggest and best-known chains of medical and recreational dispensaries in Colorado. A premier strain menu is provided at each shop courtesy of the Vault Genetics, a subsidiary of MMJA and the winner of over a dozen High Times Cannabis Cups. The professional staff and smart business attitude make MMJA a powerhouse in the cannabis industry. [mmjamerica.com](http://mmjamerica.com)

### Native Roots

A popular fixture among Colorado's cannabis aficionados, Native Roots boasts 19 locations across the state and an extensive menu of edibles, topicals and concentrates. Patients have their choice of potent strains here, including some that hit more than 28 percent THC (such as the White Fire OG, Chem 4, and Bruce Banner). [nativerootsdispensary.com](http://nativerootsdispensary.com)

### Natural Remedies

This downtown Denver shop

boasts a great location, friendly staff and excellent quality for reasonable prices, with daily specials year-round. You don't want to miss out on Natural Remedies' Moonshine Haze, UK Cheese or Super Silver Flo. Plus, sister company Concentrated Remedies produces some of the very best BHO in town! Medical and recreational users alike will love visiting this shop. [nattyrems.com](http://nattyrems.com)

### Sweet Leaf

One of the most welcoming dispensaries in the business, Sweet Leaf is known for its excellent inventory, competitive pricing and highly educated staff. This shop can meet even the most discerning customer's needs. And, Sweet Leaf is expanding, adding shops in Oregon and Nevada to its 10 locations throughout greater Denver. [sweetleafmarijuana.com](http://sweetleafmarijuana.com)

### Verde Natural

A dispensary whose roots run deep in the history of the trade, Verde Natural has become synonymous with the true essence of cannabis, thanks to curated genetics that go back generations in the US and Amsterdam alike. Featuring all-organic, soil-grown strains, the menu at Verde is fresh and healthy, with an emphasis on helping patients in need. [verdenatural.com](http://verdenatural.com)



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## MICHIGAN

Michigan has always been a hotbed of cannabis activism and cultivation. When you combine Ann Arbor's storied history of pro-pot advocacy with Detroit's economic downturn and the long tradition of growing in the Upper Peninsula, you have a state ripe for the rewards of marijuana-law reform. Even though the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act was overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 2008, dispensaries here continue to operate under some degree of fear. Here are 10 brave and beloved pot pioneers in "The Mitten."

### Arborside

Winner of multiple Cannabis Cups, this Ann Arbor shop is your friendly neighborhood compassionate caregiver. Arborside offers several different levels of bud, from the top-shelf to the super-affordable, and it also carries a wide range of popular products, including its own line of delicious and potent edibles. [arborside.com](http://arborside.com)

### Bloom City Club

Female-owned and -operated, this Ann Arbor dispensary is known for its impeccable customer service and welcoming environment. Bloom specializes in small-batch "craft" cannabis products created with love by some of the best growers and extract artists in Michigan. [bloomcityclub.com](http://bloomcityclub.com)

### Depot Town Alternative Health

This spot opened in Ypsilanti in 2011 and has been faithfully serving the patients of the area with Cannabis Cup-winning, lab-tested medicine ever since, including Captain Kirk's edibles. The *Detroit Metro Times* cited Depot Town for the Best Pre-Roll at a Dispensary in 2017. The shop also provides discounts for veterans, seniors and students. [facebook.com/depottownhealth](https://facebook.com/depottownhealth)

### Green Cross

Located on the famous 8 Mile

### Arborside



Road in Detroit, this professional and affordable pot shop places an emphasis on educating patients and stocking cutting-edge products, including CBD-rich concentrates, THC-A crystalline, distillates and "The Clear." It also supplies growers with quality rooted clones. [facebook.com/greencrossdet](https://facebook.com/greencrossdet)

### Herbal Solutions

With multiple Cannabis Cups for its flowers and concentrates, this Ypsilanti shop features a professional environment, lab-tested medicine and a friendly, knowledgeable staff. Herbal Solutions has what you're looking for, including a robust variety of live resin, clean shatter, tasty wax and aficionado-quality nugs. [herbalsolutions420.com](http://herbalsolutions420.com)

### JC3 (Jackson County Compassion Club)

Located between Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo, the city of Jackson doesn't offer a ton of options for med-pot patients in need, but JC3 shines through with great medicine at reasonable prices. Founded in 2009, this private club accepts new members and also boasts a huge seed cellar catering to patients who want to grow their own. [jacksoncompassionclub.com](http://jacksoncompassionclub.com)

### Om of Medicine

This beautiful spot in Ann Arbor employs a holistic and organic approach to cannabinoid medicine. The shop hosts grow seminars (with the likes of breeding legend DJ Short) and comedy shows, and it also offers a 10 percent discount to the disabled, veterans and seniors. [omofmedicine.org](http://omofmedicine.org)

### The Sweet Leaf

At this unique Flint enterprise, nine different grower/caregivers with different specialties combine to provide patients with a variety of high-quality meds at very reasonable prices, all under one roof. Patients get real one-on-one help as well as advice from the informed staff. [facebook.com/thesweetleafflint](https://facebook.com/thesweetleafflint)

### Third Coast

Third Coast was the first dispensary to open in Michigan, and it's still one of the best. Safe, friendly and boasting some of the finest flowers and concentrates in the state, Third Coast in Ypsilanti has a great atmosphere and even hosts massage and cooking classes. [facebook.com/3rdCoastYpsilanti](https://facebook.com/3rdCoastYpsilanti)

### TreeCity Health Collective

Minutes from downtown Ann

Arbor, TreeCity offers a carefully curated selection of lab-tested flowers, concentrates and much more. This is a true patients' collective, with plenty of CBD-rich products and a strict 21-plus policy. [annarborprovisioning-center.com](http://annarborprovisioning-center.com)

## NEVADA

**The Silver State is fast becoming a major player in the world of retail weed. Nevada's medical cannabis law has been on the books for nearly two decades, and the law allows for reciprocity—meaning that legal pot patients from any other state can come to Nevada and purchase up to 2.5 ounces in a dispensary. In 2016, Nevada voters legalized recreational weed. Rec sales are expected to begin this summer, and it's safe to assume that, like everything in Vegas, they're going to be big. Until then, here are our favorite medical shops in Nevada.**

### Las Vegas Releaf

A posh yet inviting medical dispensary, Releaf carries a full line of flowers, concentrates and edibles at affordable prices. Its knowledgeable staff aims to educate patients, providing products that treat symptoms effectively and efficiently. [lasvegasreleaf.com](http://lasvegasreleaf.com)



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Thank you, High Times. Congratulations on your 500th issue!



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### MMJ America

A Colorado transplant, MMJA is quickly becoming a national brand, opening its first pot shop in Las Vegas in the summer of 2017. The closest dispensary to the Vegas Strip, this shop services patients with the same strains that have won MMJA countless awards at High Times Cannabis Cups. [mmjamerica.com](http://mmjamerica.com)

### Oasis Medical Center

Education and community involvement highlight the Oasis Medical Center's mission. A leader in the Vegas cannabis scene, this shop offers an impressive variety of top-shelf medicine to patients and tourists alike, all curated from the finest producers in Nevada. [oasismedicalcannabis.com](http://oasismedicalcannabis.com)

### ShowGrow

After establishing three dispensaries in Southern California, ShowGrow has embarked on its first out-of-state venture, bringing Cali quality to the desert oasis in Nevada. Offering one of the most extensive strain menus in Las Vegas, as well as extracts, edibles and vape-pen products, ShowGrow is among the state's largest and most popular dispensaries. [showgrow.com](http://showgrow.com)

### The Source

With two Nevada locations and a commitment to quality and patient safety, the Source is a place for patients to feel welcome and secure in obtaining their cannabis medicine. The value menu here includes \$10 grams, while 30 flower strains and over 60 types and flavors of concentrates provide plenty of options for medical and recreational users alike. [thesourcenv.com](http://thesourcenv.com)

## OREGON

**After legalizing medical marijuana in 1998, Oregon's dispensary scene exploded in cities like Portland, Eugene and Bend. In 2014, Oregon voters legalized recreational cannabis and growers and retail outlets all over the state stepped up production and**



**sales of flowers, concentrates, edibles, tinctures and topicals. Here's ten of our favorite outlets in the Beaver State.**

### Attis Trading Company

Staffed by savvy budtenders, the bright and airy Attis shops are perfect for those wishing to soothe their physical pains or psychological traumas. More like a pharmaceutical dispensary, Attis has three locations in Portland and a fourth in Tillamook, so relief is never far away. [attis-tradingcompany.com](http://attis-tradingcompany.com)

### Botanica Cannabis Dispensary

With a display room that looks more like a jewelry shop, Botanica's limited selection of flowers could fool the shopper accustomed to Oregon's mega-dispensaries. But there's not a bad strain on offer here, and the relaxed neighborhood vibe will ensure that everyone walks away with the perfect product for their needs. [botanicapdx.com](http://botanicapdx.com)

### Brothers Cannabis

One of the state's oldest dispensaries, Brothers Cannabis is a slice of Portland history. This shop offers a killer selection of flowers and pre-rolls, designed to cater to everyone from the

high roller to the frugal shopper. And unlike most ultra-laid-back Oregon weed shops, Brothers works hard to provide attentive customer service. [brothers-cannabis.com](http://brothers-cannabis.com)

### Collective Awakenings

The Moe's Tavern of PDX dispensaries, this well-worn spot warmly embraces the weed shopper with a down-home vibe. Don't expect anything flashy from this local favorite—just solid weed at 1970s prices. [collectiveawakenings.com](http://collectiveawakenings.com)

### Jayne

A choice selection of lab-tested flowers awaits you in this oasis of high-end products at low prices. A good entry-level dispensary for the curious or uninitiated, Jayne also stocks a premium assortment of topicals, edibles, concentrates and tinctures. [jaynepdx.com](http://jaynepdx.com)

### Nectar

Tucked into the rolling suburban hills of Portland, Nectar is a hidden gem. A curated selection of *sativas*, *indicas* and hybrids ensures something for every smoker. Expect to land great deals on high-quality flowers—even the \$25 eighths work wonders—and there's a friendly, chill

staff to boot. [nectarpdx.com](http://nectarpdx.com)

### Oregon's Finest

Any Oregon's Finest location is worth a visit for the superb top-shelf flower selection, though prices run high. While the budtenders here tend to have a hipster vibe, their knowledgeable recommendations of the best herb for every customer more than makes up for it. [oregons-finest.com](http://oregons-finest.com)

### Oregrown

Billed as a "farm to table" cannabis business, Oregrown grows and sells organic indoor cannabis and processes its own extracts. Set in the heart of downtown Bend, this flagship dispensary also offers high-quality organic flowers from a select handful of Oregon cultivators. [oregrown.com](http://oregrown.com)

### Serra Dispensary (Downtown)

For tourists breezing through Portland with limited time on their hands, Serra is the best bet for a quick and inexpensive pot-buying experience. This dispensary boasts a laid-back staff who will gently nudge newbies to the right choice. And don't forget that Ground Kontrol Arcade is just down the block. [shopserra.com](http://shopserra.com) *continued on page 134*



# BUDS NOW BIGGER THAN BEER

GROWING EXPOSED



David Robinson cradles buds the size of his arm.

ARTICLE BY JEREMY DEICHEN

*Growing Exposed* a new video series produced by Jeremy Deichen, has been coined "the MTV Cribs of the marijuana industry" for its exclusive look into the once underground world of North America's gardens. Aside from revealing secrets of industry leaders, David Robinson, author of *The Growers' Handbook*, lends his expertise to a segment called *Teachings of the Garden Sage*. You can check out gardens, like the ones that make British Columbia's Kootenay region the Mecca of B.C. bud, in the latest episodes at [www.growingexposed.com](http://www.growingexposed.com).

There was a time when growing buds the length of a man's arm that dwarfed the circumference of a 12 ounce beer can was good enough. When everyone in his area started growing cross-strains like White Cheese, grower Tim knew he had to do more than grow a designer strain to create a sought after product. And how could he guarantee consistency crop after crop?

**I** have 10 to 12 different strains and the biggest factors for me are height and flowering time. I'm looking for no more than an eight-week strain, and, of course, one that looks and smells incredible," says Tim. "Each strain has different traits so you need a few rounds to get familiar with each one, and there are so many nutrients on the market that you have to make sure a product isn't just a pretty label.

Tim, who grows in the Kootenays where indoor gardens are going up like crazy, explained some of the characteristics he was looking for. "I have 10 to 12 different strains and the biggest factors for me are height and flowering time. I'm looking for no more than an eight-week strain, and, of course, one that looks and smells incredible," says Tim. "Each strain has different traits so you need a few rounds to get familiar with each one, and there are so many nutrients on the market that you have to make sure a product isn't just a pretty label."

After using Green Planet Nutrients Hydro Fuel for the last 10 years, a year ago Tim made the switch to the company's new two-part formula, called Dual Fuel, when he spotted it at his local hydro shop Pacific Northwest Garden Supply. He says the switch was super easy and the results immediate.

"I think this is the one for me," he says. "The thing I like about Dual Fuel is that I use equal parts as I feed throughout the cycle and I reuse my medium when they go into the flower room, so I re-pot with the same medium and the plants really like it. The plants are only seven inches when I kick them and end up being 30 inches. I also don't get salt buildup so I can feed longer throughout the cycle. Oh, and it's really reasonably priced."

Having grown for 25 years, Tim says he's used every system imaginable. About 12 years ago, when he started running into problems with rockwool, like forgetting to run a pump and losing crops, he made the switch to dirt. He currently runs a four-to-one system with two flowering rooms containing 250 square feet of growing space, custom-built rolling tables. The individual rooms are powered by 16 750 Watt double-ended Gavitas with a horizontal mount, and a small shade. His garden is sealed with a good cooling system that uses air conditioning and CO2.



*"The Green Planet guys obviously do their research."*

"The thing with my system is, I do all of my own cloning and vegging. I clone from the mother room and the plants get put into the cloning chamber in four-inch pots, where they veg from one to three weeks, and end up in the flowering room to veg for another seven days," Tim tells us.

Following the Dual Fuel chart, Tim adds Green Planet's Massive Bloom Formulation, Liquid W-8, Terpinator, Pro Cal and Finisher to make sure his plants, which currently include Great White Shark, White Cookies, Dark Angel and Crown Royal, have everything they need.

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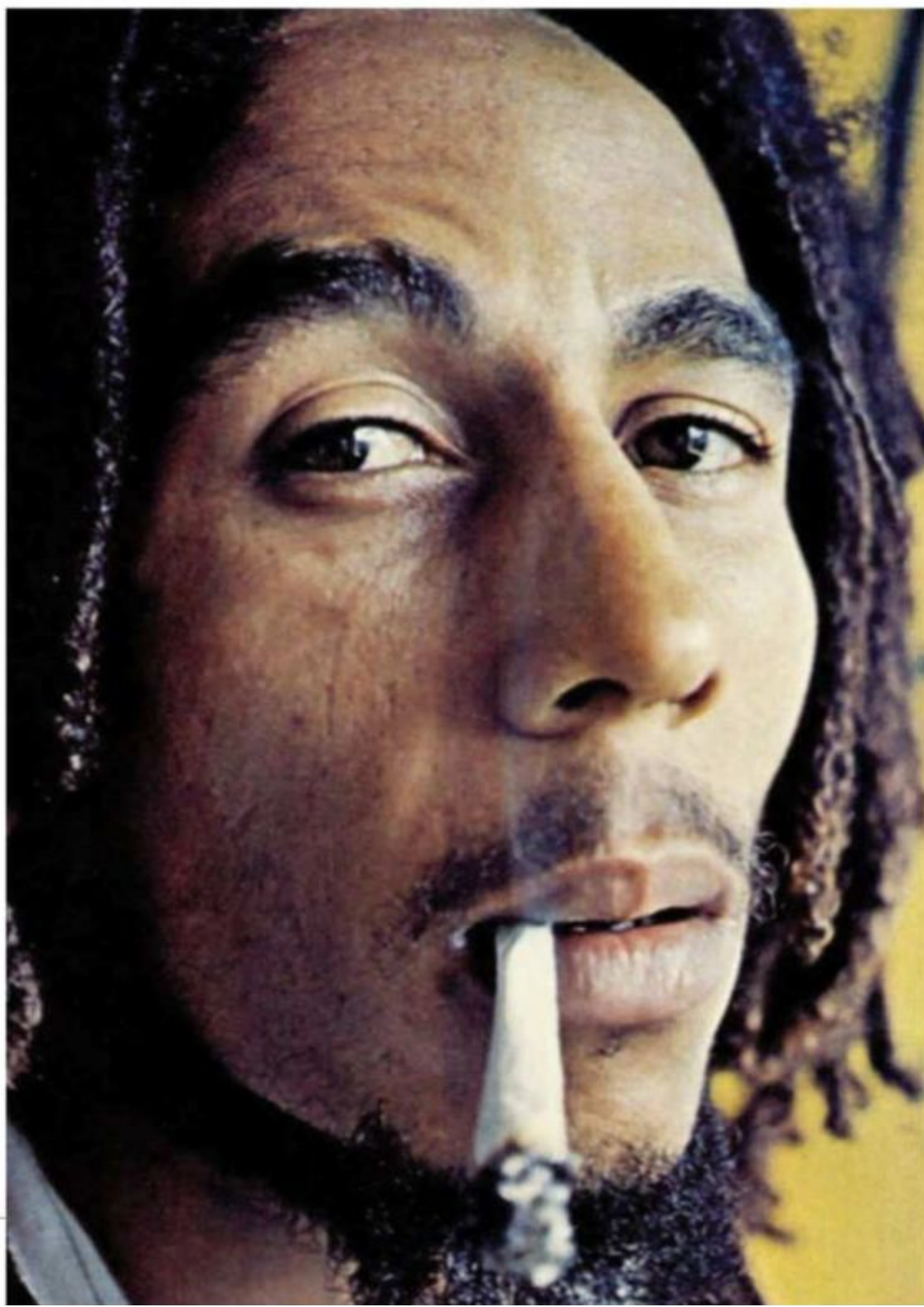
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THE HIGH TIMES STAFF

# GREATEST HITS

## THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

**O**VER THE YEARS, THE *HIGH TIMES* INTERVIEW HAS FEATURED SOME OF THE BIGGEST CELEBRITIES IN THE WORLD. WHILE OTHER MAGAZINES ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR CELEBS TO ISSUE PROMOTIONAL TALKING POINTS, *HIGH TIMES* HAS ATTEMPTED TO ENGAGE PUBLIC FIGURES IN A UNIQUE WAY. NUANCED CONVERSATIONS WITH LUMINARY ACTIVISTS, COMICS, MUSICIANS, ACTORS AND AUTHORS HAVE MADE THE *HIGH TIMES* INTERVIEW A MUST READ.

THIS MONTH, WE'RE REVISITING SOME OF OUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE INTERVIEWS FROM THE 43-YEAR HISTORY OF *HT*. FROM WELL-KNOWN CHATS LIKE OUR 1976 DISCUSSION WITH BOB MARLEY TO HIDDEN GEMS LIKE OUR 2004 TALK WITH DAVE CHAPPELLE, THESE INTERVIEWS COULD ONLY BE FOUND ON THE PAGES OF *HIGH TIMES*.





**Bob Marley**

September 1976:

**When was the first time you got high on herb?**

As a yout'. Was in de Sixties.

**What was the best weed you ever smoked?**

One time I was in Jamaica, was doin' a show, an' a man come up to me, and he gave me a spliff. Now, das de bes' herb I ever smoke. Yeah, man! Neva get an extra herb like dat again! No, no no. Just like one tree in de earth, y'know?

**Well, the Jamaican that's coming into the States now is not as good as it was.**

Ya don' get no good herb because too much sell in Jamaica. And ya find alla people who plant herb fertilize it, so nobody really take care of de herb like first time. Ya use fertilizer, it come quick. Dem fertilize it an' cut it before time.

**Do you guys find it hard to get good herb?**

Me fin' it hard to get in England.

**In England they always mix it with tobacco. It's really foul.**

Yeah, man. It's time to let de people get good herbs an' smoke. Government's a joke. All dey wan' is ya smoke cigarettes and cigar. Some cigar wickeder den herb. Yeah, man, ya can't smoke cigar. Smoke herb. Some big cigar me see man wit'. God bless! Me tell him must smoke herb.

**Have you ever tried acid?**

Me hear 'bout people who do it. No, me meet people who do it, an' dem tell me. And when dem tell me, I travel to de same place. I mean, when a guy explain it an' ya listen, ya can go all de way up to de same place as him.

**Who told you about it?**

Well, one mustn't call

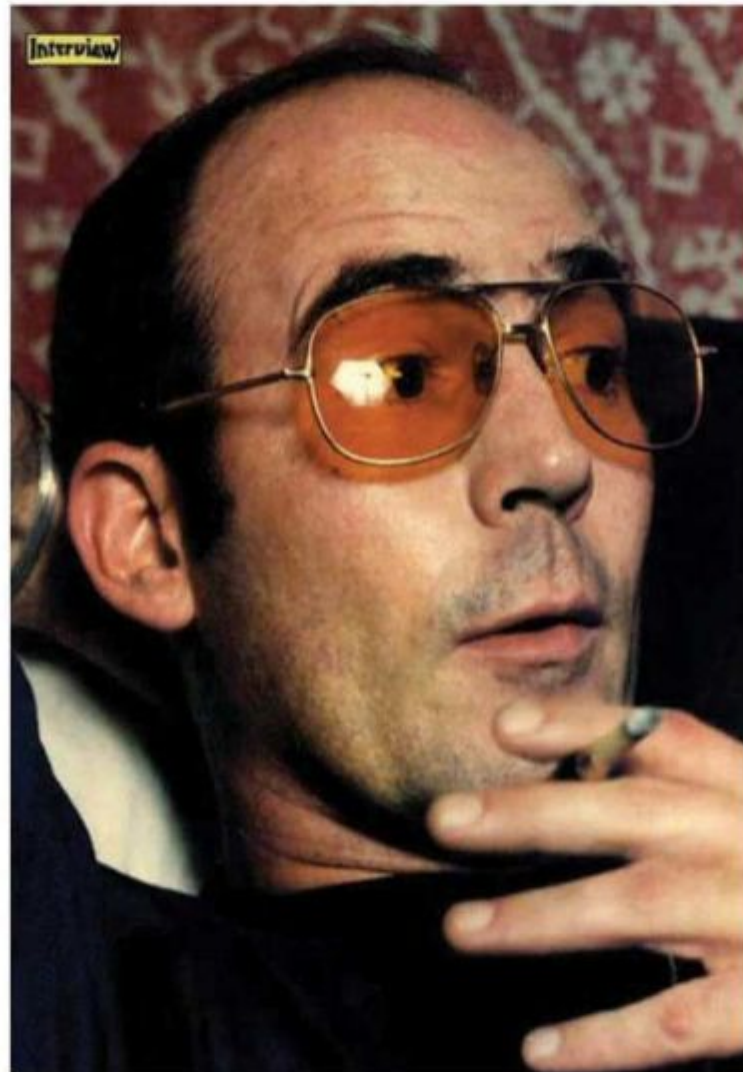
people names, y'know. What keepeth its mouth, keepeth its life.

**Do you think herb takes you to the same place?**

I feel like ya 'ave thousands of different types of herb. If when ya plant it, if ya meditation not high, it don't come like de right type of herb.

**It's very hard to find the right type of herb.**

Yeah, man.

**Hunter S. Thompson**

September 1977:

**So if you go back and read your stories, a scene where you talk about "tapping the glass" with [Jimmy] Carter campaign staffer "X"...**

Right. That means chopping up rocks of cocaine on a glass coffee table or some mirror we jerked off the wall for that purpose—but not necessarily with one of Carter's people. The whole point of this wretched

confession is that there were so many people tapping the glass in the '76 campaign that you never knew who might turn up at one of those midnight sessions. They were dangerously nonpartisan...

**That's amazing. You were covering this media-saturated presidential campaign during the day, then snorting coke at night with all those hotshot politicians?**

They weren't very hotshot then.

talking about a *few people* from almost *everybody's* staff. Across the board... Not junkies or freaks, but people who were just as comfortable with drugs like weed, booze or coke as we are—and we're not weird, are we? Hell no, we're just overworked professionals who need to relax now and then, have a bit of the whoop and the giggle, right?

**What is your favorite drug experience?**

Well, there are very few things that can really beat driving around the Bay Area on a good summer night—big motorcycle, head full of acid—wearing nothing but a T-shirt and a pair of shorts and getting on that Highway 1 going 120 miles an hour. That's a rush of every kind—head, hands—it's everything put in a bundle. Because first of all, it's a rush, and also it's maintaining control and see how far I can go, how weird I can get and still survive, even though I'm seeing rats in front of me instead of cops. Rats with guns on...

**Mick Jagger**

June 1980:

**Do you like to be alone?**

Yeah. Very much.

**What do you do?**

Play. Music.

**Take drugs?**

No.

**Never?**

Very rarely take drugs. I don't like drugs. I think cocaine is a very bad, habit-forming bore. It's about the most boring drug ever invented. [Laughs] I mean, it's very bad and very debilitating. I can't understand the fashion for it. 'Cause it's so expensive.

**That's where you spend your money?**

No, but I see people that do. I mean, I know what

**OK. But since we're talking about drug use during the '76 campaign, it's obvious we're talking about people who are now in the White House, right?**

Well... some of them, yes...

**The inner circle of Carter's people are serious drug users?**

Wait a minute, I didn't say that. For one thing, a term like serious users has a very weird and menacing connotation; and, for another, we were





people spend on drugs. I mean, you've got to look it up in *High Times*. It's a fortune. Grass is a hundred dollars an ounce, a hundred and fifty dollars for an ounce of grass. It's unbelievable. But cocaine, forget it. Anyone that buys cocaine at those prices... If you want to take it, fine, but if you're spending money on it, Jesus. What a boring drug.

#### Do you like mushrooms?

Yeah, mushrooms. Only under medical supervision. No, but mushrooms are more interesting. You really can't take them like cocaine. I think drugs should only be used occasionally.

#### You sit around and smoke grass.

Sitting and smoking grass is different.

### Stephen King

January 1981:

#### Maine is a decriminalized state.

#### Do you think that's a good idea?

I do approve of that. I think that marijuana should not only be legal, I think it should be a cottage industry. It would be wonderful for the state of Maine. There's some pretty good homegrown dope. I'm sure it would be even better if you could grow it with fertilizers and have greenhouses... My wife says, and I agree with her, that what would be really great for Maine would be to legalize dope completely and set up dope stores the way that there



are state-run liquor stores. You could get your Acapulco gold or your whatever it happened to be—your Augusta gold or your Bangor gold. And people would come from all the other states to buy it, and there could be a state tax on it. Then everybody in Maine could have a Cadillac.

I don't smoke very much marijuana at all anymore, because I'm afraid of additives, which come from decontrol and deregulation. Anybody can squirt anything into it that they want to. And that scares me. I don't like the idea.

My idea of what dope is supposed to be is to just get mellow. And what I do, if I smoke it anymore, is when I'm driving to the movies, to smoke a couple real quick so I can sit there in the first row. It's kind of interesting and they have all that good munchie food, too, you don't have to make yourself.

### Bill Hicks

April 1993:

#### Your management was reluctant for you to do a *High Times* interview. Did they think it would spoil your image?

Well, "Heroin Quarterly" had me first... no [*laughs*]. I have no idea what the problem was. I think all drugs should be legal—across the board, effective immediately. Law enforcement doesn't stop anyone from doing drugs. All it does is make criminals out of them.

Do you think there's any



#### danger that, if drugs are legalized, corporate interests will take over?

Anything corporate is dangerous and harmful. [Drugs] should all be legal and free. Profit should be against the law. That'll stop those fuckers...

#### Tonight's audience really got off on your drug riffs, but I'm sure you get some negative feedback too.

Oh yeah. What really bugs me is that a lot of people don't even have a tie-in with alcohol as a drug. I've never been attacked by a pothead, but I've had drunks scare the shit out of me. Also, it doesn't always register that people who smoke pot are under arrest in a lot of places and their belongings are taken from them by the government. It's amazing how scared they've made everyone. They can suspend the Bill of Rights and people think *it's a good thing*. "Just Say No" is the extent of our drug education in this country. All my friends said yes and I'll guarantee you we learned a lot more about drugs. Just say yes, and you'll learn.



### Dave Chappelle

April 2004:

#### Did herb hit you hard when you first did it, as in the movie [*Half Baked*]?

When I first smoked weed I didn't like it so much. First time I smoked I was twelve. It didn't really do anything for me. You hear stories, "I was paranoid, I was this, I was that." Nothing. Then I smoked pot once in high school. I think the first decent experience I had with weed was when I was nineteen. I started smoking again, and that's when it was like, "Hey, this is not bad." By that time the chronic had come out, and I loved it. *Half Baked*, man, I wrote that movie, my buddy and me did. I was livin' that lifestyle. I wasn't just *imitating* that lifestyle.

#### Did you have any qualms about making a drug movie?

Oh, was I nervous about it? Not at all. Not at all. I didn't see anything wrong with smoking pot, you know. I mean, now I'm older. I can see where it can be less than beneficial. I still don't necessarily feel like it's *criminal*. Should Tommy Chong be in jail right now? Naw! I still can't believe it! I'm surprised you don't see more "Free Chong" shirts.



#### Milla Jovovich, November 1994

"It's so funny, I told my mom, 'One day I'm gonna be in this magazine. It doesn't mean you have to take drugs because you're in this magazine. It's just a very cool magazine to be in.'"





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You know. This is like crazy! Like I said, I can see where it's less than beneficial for the corporate schedule. But nine months in federal prison? *For selling bong?*

**If pot were legal, would that do good things for race relations?**

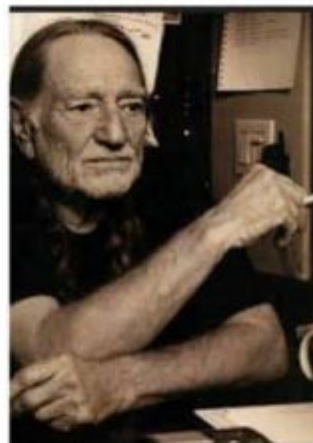
I think potentially it could. I mean, socially, when I think about the people I have smoked pot with, they are such an eclectic mix of people that I probably never would have spoken to a lot of them if it weren't for pot. Alcohol doesn't bring people together like that. You put these same people together, they're drinking alcohol, they end up fighting. So I mean, do I think it's the cure-all for America's problems? No. Do I think this shit is a good way to relax after a stressful day? Sure! In a live-and-let-live society I don't know if it should be considered criminal. If Tyrone smoked as much weed as he did crack, he'd fall asleep long before he committed a crime. *[Laughs]*

**Willie Nelson**

October 2005:

**In your autobiography, you said that marijuana got you off cigarettes and drinking.**

Yeah, I knew I was killing myself with cigarettes, and I knew I was really putting myself in danger with drinking so much, so somewhere along the way I decided, "Wait a minute! You know, do what you can do." In the early years, I drank all the time. Mainly before pot. Up until then, I was into whiskey and uppers. You know, that's the deal. Truck drivers had the bennies



when they made those LA turnarounds, and all that stuff was going around. All the guitar players had it...

**What's the difference smoking pot 50 years ago and now?**

It costs more money.

**People say it's better now, but I don't remember not getting high 25 years ago.**

No, I don't either. You know, it's kind of like sex—there's none bad, there's just some that's better. I think our tolerance is pretty good, too.

**I usually stop for a few days every now and then—because I run out.**

I intentionally let myself run out every now and then.

**A couple of days into that, I usually say, "Let me rethink that decision."**

Either that or one of the guys'll bring me one and say, "Here, don't you think it's time?"

**Oliver Stone**

November 2009:

**The War on Drugs has been going full swing since the '60s. You yourself have been a victim.**

Yeah, I was busted in December 1968 in San

Diego. I'm not sure it was called the War on Drugs then, but Nixon's border war had started, and I happened to be one of the early casualties—coming back from Mexico with Vietnamese dope on me. How stupid could I be, right? That's really dumb.

Anyway, I was facing five to 20 on a federal smuggling charge. It was very scary, and I was in for a while. Finally, I got out because of my father. It was the beginning of the Drug War, which was obviously not working—most of these kids in prison should not have been there. They were young, they were facing long sentences, and it was very arbitrary. That really soured me quickly. With Morrison and Hendrix and Dylan leading the charge in those days, there was a whole new feeling about authority. We questioned it, we fought it—and, frankly, I've had my lapses, but I've never stopped questioning it.

**How would you describe the marijuana experience?**

I've found it very enlightening. Some people don't—they find paranoia and worry. I think if you



**George Carlin, February 1998**

"I like to write without being stoned and then, every now and then—not every time, but not totally infrequently, I like to have a hit or two and then go punch up the writing. I just see different things and hear different things."



## HIGHLIGHTS

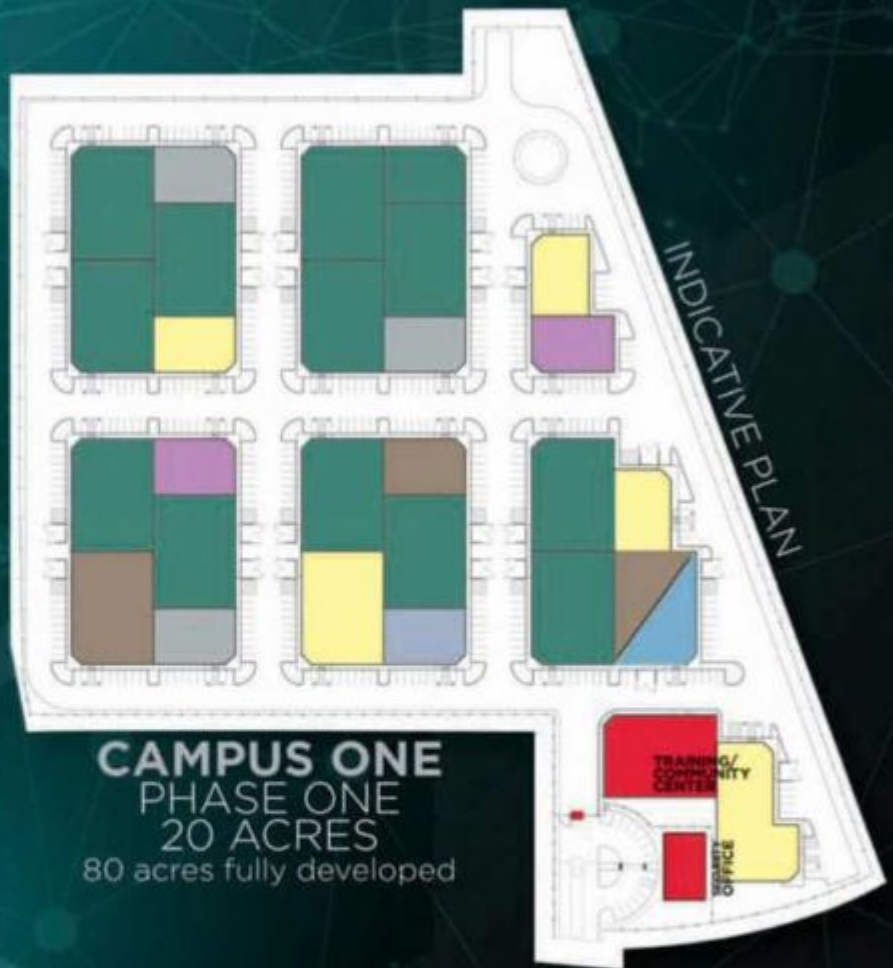
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can control your mind, if you *contain* it, you can make marijuana be a friend, an ally. I wouldn't do it all day, all the time, because I think you should try to balance your states—but certainly it's been creative and opened me to new ideas. I've abused it at times, there's no question, but I've always tried to be moderate throughout my whole life with everything, trying not to overdo it. Because abuse and excessive use can come quick, especially with substances like cocaine.

Peyote has been valuable, too, in the same way as marijuana. Also, ayahuasca and mushrooms.

**Susan Sarandon**

August 2015:

**Do you remember the first time you tried [pot]?**

I don't remember it as being so extraordinary. I never was a drinker: My body is pretty finely tuned, and I didn't like drinking because



I would just feel tired or not feel well. When I smoked, I remember thinking: "Oh, this is much more my speed. This definitely works better for me."

**Has it been a lifelong companion?**

It's something that I've always had around, and I've always been with people who smoked. But I went on a major hiatus when my kids were young. If I did smoke, I'd have to really find a time when I could—just for me. It's never fun being high when you have to pretend you're not.

**How about reading scripts and preparing for roles?**

I've never worked high and I've never filmed high. But I've read scripts high and gotten a different perspective. That's the great thing about smoking weed: If you lead a very, very busy life, for me, it really makes the most of the weekend. It like triples your weekends. If you only have certain windows to get high, it allows you to slow down and really be there. It's really important, because technology has made everybody multi-task: We get so distracted and so crazy, and our relationships are less human and more based on technology. Smoking helps you to

connect again—to be present and conscious.

**Which issue of marijuana legalization strikes you as the most urgent?**

Certainly, the jails being full of people for ridiculous drug-related crimes: If you really want to stop cartel action, then legalize marijuana. I do think it should be regulated—I don't think it's a good idea for young kids to smoke regularly while their brains are developing. As I've explained to my kids, weed helps you take a break from a very busy life. But you'll never have a really full life if you're stoned constantly from a young age. ✨



**Kurt Vonnegut, November 1990**

"They should sell pot like tobacco. I don't want people to go to jail for pot. They shouldn't be punished."

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# Expert Grow Advice

Pruning for bigger yields, growroom lighting, how to clone, proper curing and more...



Send your cannabis cultivation questions to @deardanko or deardanko@hightimes.com.

Cannabis loves nothing more than to be outdoors, bathed in sunshine.

SUBJECT: **Backyard Bonanza**

FROM: **Elliot**

🌿 What can you suggest to get a good backyard grow started and maximize its yield?

Dear Elliot,

The key to maximizing the yield of an outdoor grow is to plan carefully, start early and make sure the plants will get enough light throughout their lifecycle. Planning means making sure that your backyard is secure and safe to grow in and won't arouse suspicion or unwanted attention. Stealth is important, even in a legal medical growing situation.

The next step is to start early. Plant seeds indoors under grow lights in mid- to late winter and give them a chance to grow into nice-size vegetative bushes before placing them outdoors in the spring. This is also the time to prune them in order to keep your plants short and stocky and produce more branches and tops.

Find a planting spot in your yard that gets plenty of direct sunlight throughout the day and the growing season (which runs from spring into late fall). A tree that isn't in the way now might reduce your plants' sunlight drastically come autumn.

Next, dig out a hole as big as you can and fill it with good store-bought organic soil and whatever amendments you wish to use. (I recommend compost, greensand and some seabird guano.) Make sure the medium is light and airy and keep it well watered. Trellising big outdoor plants is a must, so create some kind of trellis using materials such as chicken wire. Each fallen branch represents a significant amount of pot lost from your eventual harvest, so ensure that they all stay standing.



*Danko Tip:* If your local water is bad, you may need to invest in a reverse-osmosis (RO) machine to clean it of impurities.

Bending branches helps allow light to reach shaded areas.



SUBJECT: **Bigger Yields Through Training**

FROM: **Horsemeat Haz**

🌿 Greetings! I'd like to know some techniques that I can use during the vegetative stage to get a bigger harvest. I've heard that training or pruning can increase my yields, but I don't know exactly how and when to go about it.

Dear Haz,

The vegetative stage is the ideal time for pruning and training in order to achieve more branches, bigger plants and a much heavier harvest. Once a plant has three or more nodes, you can begin the pruning process. This can be as simple as trimming the tops off growing shoots in order to increase the amount of future branches, but there are several different ways to prune selectively.

Some growers train their plants' branches by weighing or tying them down using the low-stress training (LST) technique. This increases the amount of the garden canopy's surface area that light can reach and turns secondary and other branches into main tops. Bushier plants produce much more pot than Christmas-tree-style plants with one main cola and the typical triangular-shaped profile.

A sinker (such as those used for fishing) works great to weigh down a main branch without having to cut it. Once the main branch sags below the lower branches, a chemical signal is sent telling the lower branches that they're no longer subordinate to a main top and can each become a dominant branch, thus significantly raising your yield.

Smart growers introduce a trellising

system during the vegetative stage in order to spread the growing branches wide. There are many different ways to create a trellis, from chicken wire to strings or metal bars, but what they all share in common is spreading the canopy out and creating a more level surface area. Branches tucked into a horizontal trellis will produce many more bud sites than branches growing upward, so be sure to use some kind of trellis to get the most out of each plant.

As the growing shoots approach your trellis, bend them to fill the empty holes in the canopy. Once they start the flowering process, leave them alone until it's time to harvest. At that point, take care when removing branches from the trellis so as not to damage the delicate trichome glands on the string or wire.



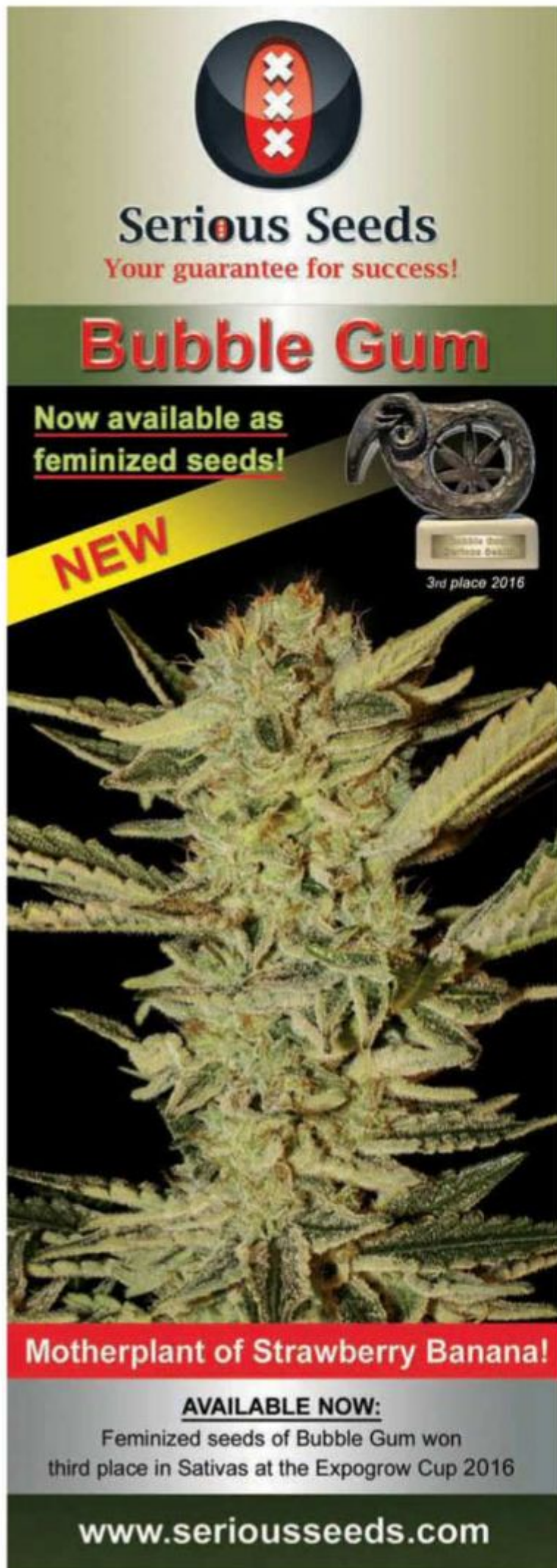
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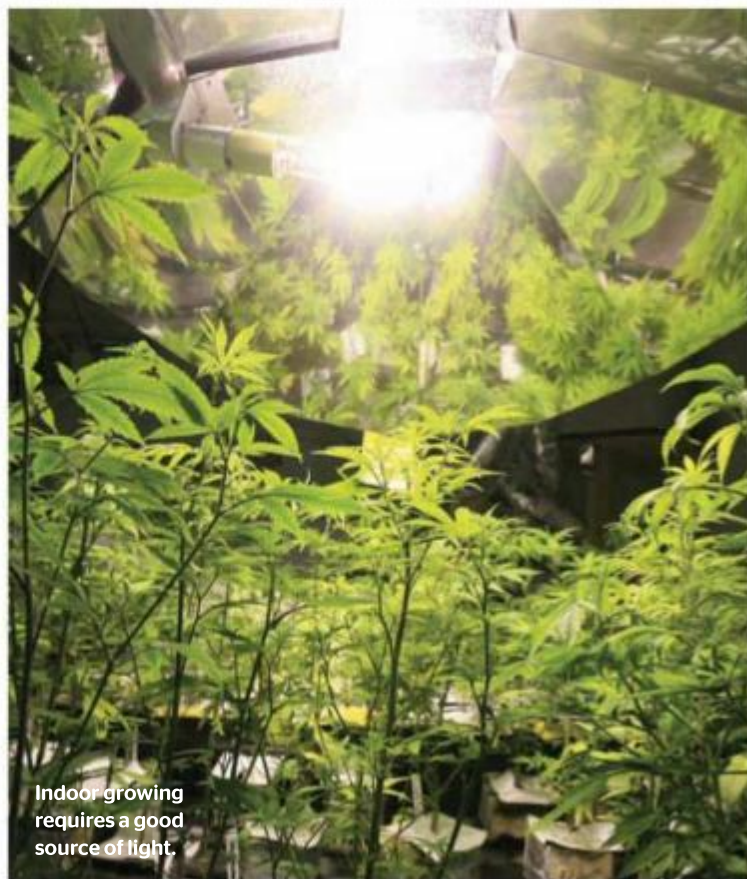
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*Danko Tip:* Thoroughly clean your growroom between cycles to ensure that no pests or molds are present during your next round.



Indoor growing  
requires a good  
source of light.

SUBJECT: **Grow Lighting**

FROM: **Mickey Featherstoned**

🌱 I want to start growing indoors, and I've heard from a friend that I need to get a special light. Can you let me know what kind of light I should purchase to get growing today?

Dear Mickey,

First off, you need to choose the proper light for the amount of space you have. I highly recommend high-intensity discharge (HID) lights such as high-pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH). Tiny gardens can use compact fluorescents, but these are best reserved for cloning or keeping mother plants alive instead of flower production.

If you're using HIDs, a minimum of 50 watts (6,000 lumens) per square foot is necessary to maximize bud production without creating too much heat. A 250-watt HPS light and reflector are perfect for a 2' x 2' space. Avoid the overkill of using a 1,000-watt light in a small space and you'll avoid the headache of trying to remove all that built-up hot air. For micro systems such as a small cabinet, there are even smaller-wattage HPS lights that work perfectly to produce buds without creating too much heat.

Of course, there are also the relatively new light-emitting diode (LED) lamps on the market, which can provide a good amount of lumens without creating nearly as much heat. Do some research before buying one, though, since these units can be expensive, and not all of them are suited for producing plant growth in small spaces. If you think you might be interested in using one in the future, I'd suggest keeping an eye on the technology, since it is improving quickly, and the prices on LED grow lights are coming down as well.





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*Danko Tip:* Spider mites reproduce quickly in hot environments. Keep the growroom temperature below 80°F to decrease their proliferation.



These cuttings wait in water to be placed into their rooting medium.

SUBJECT: **Growing From Clones**

FROM: **Fredo's Brother**

🌱 I keep hearing about clones, but I'm not sure what they are or how I can achieve them. Can you enlighten me as to why I should grow them and how to get them to produce roots?

Dear FB,

Taking clones—i.e., the process of cutting a growing branch from a mother plant and forcing roots to grow from the cut end, thereby multiplying one into many—isn't a technique that was invented by pot farmers. Since the dawn of agriculture, people have looked for ways to propagate plants without using seeds. Every farm-stand proprietor, florist and garden-store owner knows the "secret" to cloning—and profits mightily from the general public's lack of understanding of what is actually a quite simple process.

Replicating many copies of one plant provides a number of benefits over growing a garden from seed. Because most seedlings will vary in their size and growth rates, with different phenotypes behaving in dissimilar ways, seed gardens tend to be uneven, with light levels optimum for some plants but less so for others. Rooted clones, on the other hand, have the same growth rate and thus provide a level canopy, with every plant benefiting from all of the available light. Growing from seeds also wastes valuable germination time, resulting in fewer total harvests per year.

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*Danko Tip:* Always use cloning gel or powder when taking cuttings to encourage rooting and reduce the risk of mold and rot.

From a quality-control perspective, a good mother plant is the gift that keeps on giving. Known females with guaranteed elite genetics continue to produce clone after clone of strong and tasty plants for many years. The only drawback to cloning is that all of the cuttings will share susceptibilities to fungus or disease, so always remain vigilant and start new moms if you have any problems. Also, purchasing rooted clones from a dispensary can sometimes cause more problems than it solves, so make sure the clones are pest- and fungus-free if you decide to go that route.

Choosing a medium to root your cuttings is the next step in successful cloning. Many different mediums exist, from rock-wool to peat pellets to coco coir. Hydroponic growers sometimes “root” their clones in thin air, using a mist to induce rooting at the cut end, which hangs down into a reservoir. But as long as the medium you’re using stays moist, warm and airy, pretty much any one will do.

Because cannabis cuttings root best in warm conditions with high humidity, the cheap trays with clear plastic domes work remarkably well. In cool conditions, a heat mat should be placed underneath the tray to maintain optimum temperature and humidity (75°F and 80% relative humidity are about right). No matter where you root your clones, and into what kind of medium, keep warmth and high humidity on your priority list: Clones allowed to get cold or dry will perish quite quickly. On the other hand, too much humidity can cause mold and rot, so cut a hole or two in your clear plastic dome to allow some air circulation.

To take a clone, choose a growing shoot with at least three sets of leaves and make the cut just below the node (the place where the leaves meet the stem). Cut the plant with a sharp non-serrated blade, and do so at about a 45-degree angle to ensure plenty of rooting area. Trim off the set of leaves closest to the cut so that you can get the stem into your medium.

Immediately immerse the cut end into a rooting hormone and then firmly but gently push the cutting into your pre-moistened medium. (Some people like to gently rough up the bottom inch or so of the stem with the knife to create more roots, but this is not absolutely necessary.) Within eight to 14 days, you should see white roots poking out of the bottom of your medium. You are now ready to transplant the rooted clones into bigger containers for their vegetative stage of growth.

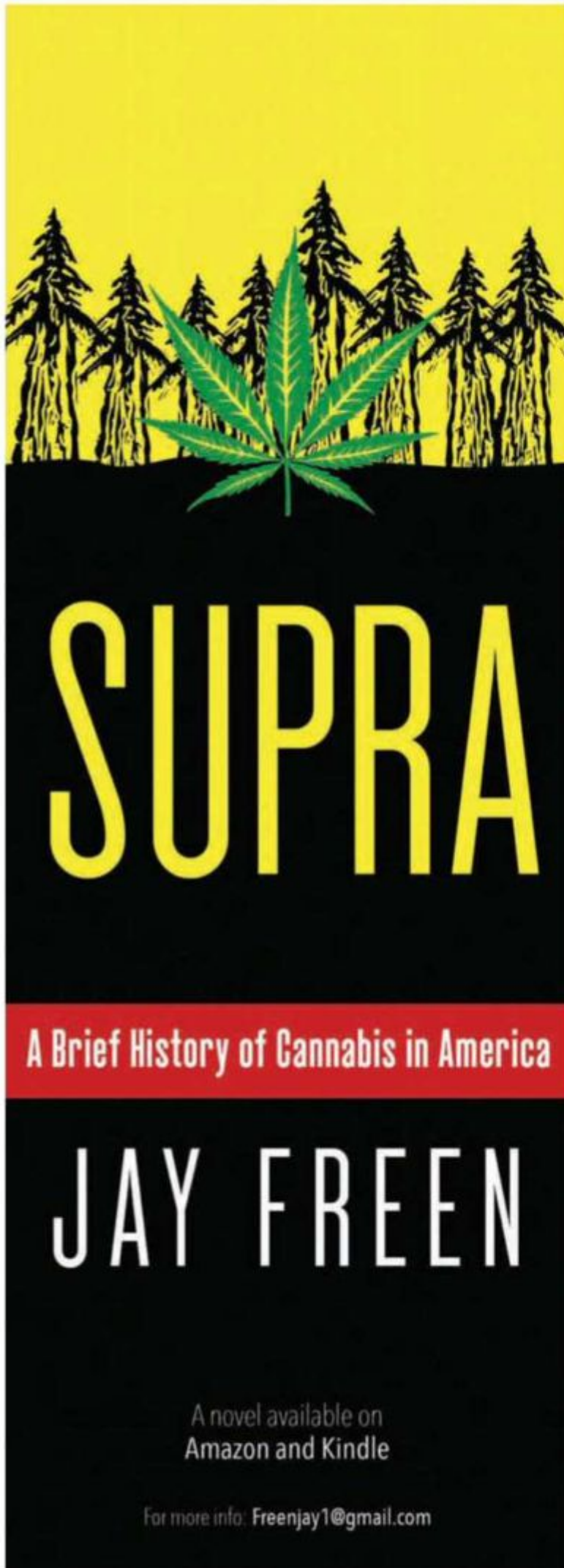
SUBJECT: **Lighting Schedules**

FROM: **Jay**

🌱 I'm a beginner and don't know much about growing. What I wanted to know is: What's the best schedule as far as lighting goes? My plants are currently on a 21-hour-a-day schedule. Should I leave this as is, or what would you recommend?

Dear Jay,

I usually recommend an 18-hour-on/6-hour-off schedule for indoor growers during the vegetative stage. This will provide your plants with the necessary light without breaking the bank on electricity costs. If electrical usage isn't an issue, you can do 20 or even 22 hours of light during this stage. I don't advise a full 24 hours of light per day because I believe that plants need some downtime in the dark to rest, recover, and use up their stored energy to grow more leaves and shoots.











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*Danko Tip: Avoid bending air ducts for intake and outtake as much as possible. Every bend reduces your fan's efficiency.*



Well-flushed plants taste and burn better than those that aren't flushed.

SUBJECT: **Harsh Taste**  
 FROM: **JonJon**

Hey, so I have a few questions about things, because my buddy is too big a wuss to ask himself. He has a grow tent set up and does pretty well with everything: The end product is always dense, stinky and does the trick, and it also looks great, but the downfall is that it smokes like shit—it's too harsh and burns the throat and lungs. So, with this little bit of info, could you please give me a few reasons why this is happening?

Dear JonJon,

Sounds like your buddy is having problems post-harvest: Somewhere along the way from flushing to drying to curing, something is going wrong. These are the steps that any grower needs to master to eliminate harsh-tasting or crappy-burning buds.

Flushing is done in the last two weeks of the flowering stage by using plain, pH-balanced water instead of nutrient solution in order to leach out any remaining minerals (such as salts) from the growing medium and plants. Pour the water until it flows heavily out of the bottom of your containers during this time. You may see some yellowing of the leaves or other fall colors developing, but don't be alarmed: This is a good thing, since it means that your quest to reduce the chlorophyll and other elements trapped within your buds has been successful.

Drying requires hanging the harvested buds until they're bone-dry to the touch. Slow drying is essential, so don't try to get it done quickly with fans blowing directly on the buds or any other method to speed up the amount of time it takes the plants to dry.

After at least a week of letting the hanging plants dry (depending on the ambient humidity and temperatures where you live), the branches should snap instead of bending. Now is the time to remove the individual buds and begin curing them in sealed glass jars. Open the jars at least once a day early on in the process to remove moist air and replenish it with drier fresh air. After two weeks of curing (i.e., "sweating" out the remaining moisture inside your buds), they should be ready to grind up and smoke without any harshness or difficulty burning. 🌿



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continued from page 112

### Thurman Street Collective

Perhaps the cutest little dispensary in all of Portland, Thurman Street Collective is perfect for the discerning consumer who likes an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere when buying weed. Doubling as an art gallery, this shop is actively engaged in the surrounding neighborhood, building a sense of community. [thurmanstreetcollective.com](http://thurmanstreetcollective.com)

## WASHINGTON

**Since Washington voters approved legalizing marijuana for recreational use in 2012, a number of cannabis shops have sprouted among the Puget Sound's sprawl of waterways and pine forests. Whether you're a visitor or a local, you're likely to be distracted by the billboard marketing and overcrowded market. Here are your best bets for a great weed experience in the Evergreen State.**

### Chimacum Cannabis Co.

A favorite stop for pot smokers heading to the pretty Victorian seaport of Port Townsend, the Chimacum Cannabis Co., set in a restored farmhouse, has a warm, rustic vibe. Sourcing premium, organically grown cannabis products from around the Olympic Peninsula, this shop showcases the best buds that the Pacific Northwest has to offer. [chimacumcannabis.com](http://chimacumcannabis.com)

### Hashtag

The online ordering system at Hashtag makes for a painless shopping experience, and the product selection can't be beat. It's located just a short stroll from Seattle's famed Fremont troll under the bridge—a perfect spot to visit after indulging. [seattlehashtag.com](http://seattlehashtag.com)

### Have a Heart (Belltown)

Notorious for its giant joint sculpture, this Belltown location is one of six Have a Heart dispensaries. Conveniently located just a few blocks from the Space Needle and the downtown waterfront, Have a Heart Belltown boasts an impressive inventory

of high-quality cannabis and a knowledgeable and friendly staff. [haveaheartcc.com](http://haveaheartcc.com)

### Herban Legends

Herban Legends is the place to go if you're visiting Seattle for a day but don't want to leave the downtown grid. A short walk from the end of the famed Pike Place market, this uber-hip shop beats the more heavily advertised dispensaries near the sports stadiums thanks to its great staff and wide selection. [herbanlegends.com](http://herbanlegends.com)

### Herbs House

Tucked in a wasteland between the Seattle neighborhoods of Ballard and Phinney Ridge, Herbs House can be difficult to find. But if you can follow the GPS, this place has the best prices for bud in Seattle, hands down. [herbshouse.org](http://herbshouse.org)

### HWY 420

This shop offers a great selection of flowers, edibles, extracts and accessories, and the owners give back to the community by donating to local charities. The friendly staff makes this an excellent pot stop on your Olympic Peninsula travels. [hwy420.xyz](http://hwy420.xyz)

### Paper & Leaf

Stroll off the ferry from Seattle and take the waiting shuttle to Bainbridge's Paper & Leaf. This high-end cannabis boutique has a gallery-like vibe, with vintage records playing and beautifully displayed products. Friendly budtenders offer sage advice about the massive assortment of flowers, extracts and edibles. [paperandleaf.com](http://paperandleaf.com)

### Pot Zone

Tucked away in a strip mall amidst towering pine trees in the small town of Port Orchard—just across the sound from Seattle—Pot Zone feels like a well-kept secret. It offers great daily deals and a wide variety of the Pacific Northwest's favorite growers, including the unbeatable Noble Farms. [potzone420.com](http://potzone420.com)

### Vela

Located in SoDo (south of downtown), Vela uses a color-spectrum wall to help customers choose from an imposing array of cannabis products. Vela's in-store grow and extraction lab make for an educational and visually appealing dispensary experience. [velacommunity.com](http://velacommunity.com)

### Xander's Green Goods

A charming, warmly inviting shop, Xander's Green Goods is located in Seattle's sister city, Tacoma, among a patch of half-abandoned warehouses. If you manage to make it there, Xander's will reveal its riches to you, including the best prices and selection of flowers in the area, as well as great benefits for return customers. [xanders.com](http://xanders.com)

## THE BEST OF THE REST

**Of course, not all dispensary systems are created equal, but that doesn't mean you can't find high-caliber cannabis shops outside of California, Colorado, Oregon or Washington. Quantity doesn't always indicate quality, and while pot shops may not be prolific in these states, there are still some incredible spots to check out!**

## ALASKA

### ARCTIC HERBERY

As the first licensed marijuana shop to open its doors in Anchorage, this dispensary now serves up Alaska's finest flowers, extracts, clones and other high-quality accessories. The dependable staff will always help you find what you're looking for, whether it's recreational or medical. [arcticherbery.com](http://arcticherbery.com)

## ARIZONA

### TRUMED DISPENSARY

With top-notch workers and even a dedicated nurse on staff, TruMed offers an extensive menu of strains, edibles and infused products. Plus, first-time patients at this Phoenix-based shop get a special discount: Buy an eighth and get an eighth free! [trumedaz.com](http://trumedaz.com)

## ILLINOIS

### D33 CHICAGO (DISPENSARY 33)

Unlike many cannabis shops, D33 displays all of its marijuana goods to its customers, allowing patients to

personally inspect their meds. With a large menu of flowers, extracts, edibles and topicals, this dispensary has consistently gone above and beyond to help the state's medical marijuana patients safely and affordably access their medicine. [dispensary33.com](http://dispensary33.com)

## MASSACHUSETTS

### NEW ENGLAND TREATMENT ACCESS

Massachusetts's premium medical marijuana dispensary, with locations in Brookline and Northampton, has an extensive menu featuring flowers, edibles, topicals, concentrates and more. An added bonus is the Wait Time Widget, which allows patients to use their mobile device to check if there's a line at either location. [netacare.org](http://netacare.org)



Breakwater Treatment & Wellness

## NEW JERSEY

### BREAKWATER TREATMENT & WELLNESS

The preeminent dispensary in the Garden State, Breakwater's centrally located shop features a diverse cross-section of genetics, grown in a massive state-of-the-art cultivation facility run by formally trained agriculturalists. The focus at Breakwater is simple: Through advanced grow techniques and scientifically enhanced breeding projects, they provide the ultimate treatment-oriented menu for their patients. [breakwateratc.com](http://breakwateratc.com)

## RHODE ISLAND

### THOMAS C. SLATER COMPASSION CENTER

Committed to providing safe, dignified and affordable access to medical marijuana in Rhode Island, the Thomas C. Slater Compassion Center provides only the finest medical-grade cannabis. [slatercenter.com](http://slatercenter.com)

## WASHINGTON, DC

### CAPITAL CITY CARE

With a knowledgeable staff, convenient hours, competitive prices and a great selection of products, Capital City Care has won the "Best of DC" award for Best Dispensary and is the only shop in DC authorized to cultivate cannabis—meaning patients can count on consistent quality, exclusive strains, and awesome sales and specials. [capitalcitycare.com](http://capitalcitycare.com) ✨



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# Edibles



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#### FOR THE CREPES:

1 cup milk  
 ¼ cup cold water  
 1 cup all-purpose flour  
 1 tbsp. sugar  
 2 eggs, lightly beaten  
 ¼ cup creamy canna-butter, melted and cooled  
 1 stick grass-fed butter, cold (you won't use the whole stick—it's just to grease the pan)

#### FOR THE CHEESE FILLING:

1 cup ricotta cheese  
 ½ cup mascarpone cheese  
 3 tbsp. confectioner's sugar  
 ¼ cup crushed pineapple, drained  
 1 egg

#### FOR THE SOUFFLÉ:

1 stick grass-fed butter, melted  
 1 cup sugar  
 4 eggs  
 1½ cups sour cream  
 2 tsp. pineapple juice  
 2 tsp. vanilla  
 1 pinch cinnamon  
 ½ cup crushed pineapple  
 ½ tsp. salt

Blend together the crepe ingredients: milk, cold water, flour, sugar, eggs and canna-butter. Heat a small nonstick pan on medium. Rub the stick of butter around the bottom and sides of the pan.

Pour enough batter into the pan to coat the bottom. Cook for 30 to 40 seconds, until the batter sets. Shake gently to loosen. Flip the crepe using a small silicon spatula, and cook for another 30 to 40 seconds. Transfer to a plate and repeat until all of the batter is used.

In a medium mixing bowl, combine the ingredients for the filling: ricotta cheese, mascarpone cheese, confectioner's sugar, crushed pineapple and egg. Mix well. Place 1 tablespoon of the filling in each crepe and fold it opposite edge to opposite edge, then roll the open sides over the folded edges to create a closed little blintz. Set aside and repeat.

Next, preheat the oven to 340°F. Using six ramekins, pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of melted butter to cover the bottom of each. Place 1 crepe in each ramekin.

Blend the soufflé ingredients: sugar, eggs, sour cream, pineapple juice, vanilla, cinnamon, crushed pineapple and salt. Pour the mixture over the crepes, filling each ramekin three-quarters full. Bake for 1 hour until golden brown and then serve.

Approximate THC per serving (based on infusing 5 grams of cured/dried/decarbed cannabis into 1½ sticks of butter):

10%: 7.6 milligrams

15%: 11.4 mg

20%: 15.2 mg

## Canna-Crepe Soufflés

JeffThe420Chef shares one of his favorite recipes from his new book *The 420 Gourmet*. By JeffThe420Chef

**Ricotta-Pineapple Mini:** This is one of my all-time-favorite dishes! I like to make six minis to snack on during the week, but you can also make one large soufflé by placing all of the blintzes on top of the melted butter in a large baking dish. Then just pour the soufflé mixture over the crepes and bake for one hour.





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# Balance Your High

Mellow out with these edibles high in cannabidiol. *By Elise McDonough*



**Frequently overwhelmed** by the strength of THC in edibles, today's new cannabis users are turning to low-dose products, as well as to items rich in cannabidiol (CBD). A non-psychoactive compound, CBD balances the effects of THC, providing anxiety relief that takes the edge off an intense high. Adding CBD to your diet can aid sleep, boost athletic recovery and elevate your mood, allowing you to truly thrive.

Look for varying ratios of CBD and THC when buying cannabis products. A 1:1 ratio means there's an equal amount of both cannabinoids. Some people prefer edibles with much more CBD than THC—and in the modern cannabis marketplace, there's an option that's right for everyone.

## ESPRESSO DARK CHOCOLATE

60 mg CBD / 60 mg THC

*Kiva Confections*

This espresso-flavored bar is smooth and silky, with no discernible cannabis taste. Four segments contain 15 mg each of CBD and THC for your low-dose pleasure. Kiva also has a Ginger Dark Chocolate bar with 120 mg of both CBD and THC for those who need a more potent medicine.

## GINGER SNAPS

10 mg CBD

*Sow Eden Organics*

Specializing in CBD-only products, Sow Eden Organics creates capsules, tinctures, oils, and these moist and tasty ginger snaps. With 10 mg of CBD per cookie (and six cookies per bag), it's easy to munch away, and the ginger helps soothe those with sensitive digestive systems.

## CBD LIVING GUMMIES

10 mg CBD

*CBD Living*

These delightful gummies contain CBD along with vitamins D and B-12 for a dietary supplement with no noticeable psychoactive effects. These are great for Grandma or any other patient looking for relief without the euphoria.

## 4.20 BAR CBD DARK CHOCOLATE

120 mg CBD / 60 mg THC

*VCC Brands*

Many people prefer the slight high experienced when the CBD exceeds the THC in a 2:1 ratio. Suitable for those wary of edibles, a single segment of this chocolate bar is perfect for people who'd like a mild buzz, but don't want to get overwhelmingly high.

## LEMON CBD CANDIES

15 or 50 mg CBD

*Paradise Candy Company*

Conveniently packaged in a single-serving size, these hard candies are available with 15 or 50 mg of CBD. Paradise also offers Watermelon Indica and Apple Sativa candies for those looking for more potency.

## SUGAR-FREE CBD ZINGER

100 mg CBD / 15 mg THC

*VCC Brands*

Suitable for diabetics, this vegan cookie is scrumptious, with added lemon and ginger for an herbal-healing synergy. With a 20:3 ratio of CBD to THC, this product produces no discernible "high," just deep relief and a restful sleep.

## MARINARA PIZZA SAUCE

20 mg CBD

*Clean Healing*

Spread this savory option onto a homemade pizza for a healing treat with no added sugar. With 20 mg of CBD in 1 ounce of sauce, adding a therapeutic dose to pasta or breadsticks is super-simple!

## 4 CBD MANGO

## CANNABIS QUENCHER

40 mg CBD / 40 mg THC

*VCC Brands*

This new infused juice-drink delivers a balanced dose of CBD and THC along with the myrcene found in mangos, believed to aid in THC absorption. Also from VCC, Fruit Sparks hard candy delivers a gentle high with 10 mg apiece of each cannabinoid, perfect for enjoying on a stressful day.



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## Pot, the Panacea

Can marijuana help you to lose weight, sleep better and sneeze less?

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at [420research@gmail.com](mailto:420research@gmail.com).

What is microdosing?

*Li'l Kim*

Hi Kim,  
The term initially applied to the practice of taking extremely small amounts of LSD or some other hallucinogen to inspire happy moods and improved creativity. Many cannabis fans have done likewise, finding the right small dose of weed to help them feel uplifted and unfatigued. Plus, since small doses rarely lead to increased tolerance, the delightful, creative days can go on and on.

Last month, you implied that you passed a drug test. You kidding me?

*Hugh R. Enluck*

Hi Hugh,  
I take a month off every year to keep my tolerance down. It also helps me ridicule the idea of cannabis withdrawal whenever I get a chance.

Do people in medical marijuana states weigh less?

*Wade Loss*

Yo Wade,  
There's about a 4 percent decrease in the chance of obesity in medical marijuana states, which translates to a per-person savings of \$58 to \$115 in medical costs. I'm not saying that smoking *sativa* is a diet plan, but folks who love the plant do weigh less.

Are pinene-heavy strains good for hay fever?

*Sneezy Dwarf*



Hi Sneezzy,  
Giant doses of alpha-pinene have reduced the symptoms of hay fever in mice, but even the most piney pot strains only have a few milligrams. I think we're starting to expect too much from cannabis—it's a lot for any plant to help with pain, nausea, insomnia, loss of appetite, seizures, Crohn's disease, irritable-bowel syndrome, autism, PTSD, migraines, glaucoma *and* hay fever!

So cannabinol (CBN) is what makes everybody sleepy after they've been high for a while, right?

*Sleepy Dwarf*

Hi Sleepy,  
I know that's the legend all over the Web, but THC and CBD in combination have been helping people sleep just fine. (And if Dopey asks, CBD diminishes THC's stonier effects as well.) There doesn't appear to be any research on the effects of CBN alone, so we'll just have to wait and see. ✨

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.*



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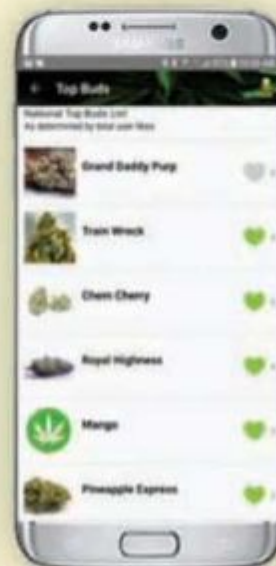
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## Will Congress Protect Medical Marijuana?

The legislative branch might be the only hope for state-sanctioned medical cannabis under the Trump Administration.

*Justin Strekal is the political director of NORML. Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org).*

**W**E APPLAUD THE recent decision by Congress to reauthorize the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment, a critical marijuana-policy provision, through September 30, 2017. Specifically, Section 537 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 states that no federal funds may be used to “prevent any [state] from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.”

Congress possesses the “power of the purse,” so it is well within its authority to limit the Justice Department’s actions in this regard. The decision to reauthorize the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment’s language illustrates both compassion and common sense when it comes to marijuana policy. At present, 30 states and more than 90 percent of the voting public approve of the use of marijuana as a medicine, and it is inherently good policy *and* good politics for members of Congress to protect their constituents in this manner.

However, this decision is only a stop-gap measure at best. Ultimately, it is Congress’s responsibility to amend federal law in a manner that comports with the available scientific evidence, the weight of public opinion, and the country’s rapidly changing cultural and legal landscape.

This would include the outright removal of cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act so that states possess the flexibility to engage in their own marijuana regulatory policies as they see fit.

While Congress has taken a positive step in maintaining the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment, on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue, ambiguity reigns. In a signing statement, President Trump expressed his displeasure with the amendment by writing that he “will treat this provision consistently with my constitutional responsibility to take care that the laws be faithfully executed,” thus leaving open the possibility that his administration may choose to ignore it.

So what exactly should we expect in the coming days? Your guess is as good as mine. The lack of clarity is disturbing, to say the least. While we don’t know exactly how the administration intends to respond to cannabis-law reform, we do know the profile and history of Attorney General Jeff Sessions. His recent prohibitionist rhetoric—including advocating a return to the “Just Say No” policies of the 1980s—indicates that he has no desire to take a thoughtful approach to cannabis policy moving forward.

We also know that in February, the Heritage Foundation’s chief of staff, Cully

Stimson, penned an influential essay, “How Trump’s DOJ Can Start Enforcing Federal Marijuana Law,” that laid out an 11-point strategy for combatting marijuana-legalization efforts. Thus far, the Heritage Foundation has played an outsize role in helping President Trump and his staff set policy objectives, and it is clear that the conservative think tank is now influencing US drug policy.

The items laid out by Stimson include reaffirming a hard line against marijuana use domestically and prosecuting state-legal marijuana businesses under RICO (the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) to go after investors and consumers as “co-conspirators.”

A plan to crack down on cannabis appears to be gathering steam. That’s why activists, advocates and marijuana consumers need to push back. Join NORML in Washington, DC, this September for the annual NORML Conference and Lobby Day. We will be lobbying members of Congress regarding a number of key legislative proposals, as well as for expanded budgetary amendments protecting the adult-use states.

In the interim, please visit NORML’s online Take Action Center at [norml.org](http://norml.org) to contact your federal lawmakers and make your voice heard. 🌿

### FREEDOM FIGHTER

#### Lone Star Citizen-Lobbyist

Jax Finkle is working to make pot-law reform bigger in Texas.

For marijuana activists in the Lone Star State, reforming cannabis laws hasn’t been easy. With the State Legislature meeting only every two years and no ballot-initiative process available at the state or local level, activists have a more limited number of avenues for advancing reform. Despite (or perhaps because of) these hurdles, Jax Finkle, the executive director of

Texas NORML, has turned out to be a force to be reckoned with.

After getting involved in cannabis-law reform in 2005, Jax quickly found her place in the state’s marijuana movement. Starting as a volunteer coordinator and continuing as deputy director, Jax has transformed Texas NORML from the ground up. She created a cannabis-centric voters’ guide in 2012 and helped spearhead the very first statewide chapter training in 2016.

Over the last three years, Jax



has worked with more than a dozen NORML chapters in Texas to increase the size of their annual lobby day from just a few dozen participants to nearly 400.

From El Paso to Beaumont and from Amarillo to McAllen, the supporters of marijuana legalization continue to show that they’re ready, willing and able to fight for what they believe in.

“Since we’re restricted from using traditional ballot initiatives, it is so imperative that the citizens of Texas engage their legislators,” Jax

says. “In fact, engagement over the two-year cycle is so important that we hosted 16 trainings across Texas, with a curriculum that was targeted based on the part of the cycle [we were in]. As a result, we’ve seen even stronger support in Texas and more action in the Legislature.”

Jax also works closely with Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy and other pro-cannabis groups. She can often be found at the Capitol, pushing patiently but firmly for marijuana-law reform and building those all-important relationships with lawmakers.

*By Kevin Mahmalji, NORML national outreach coordinator*





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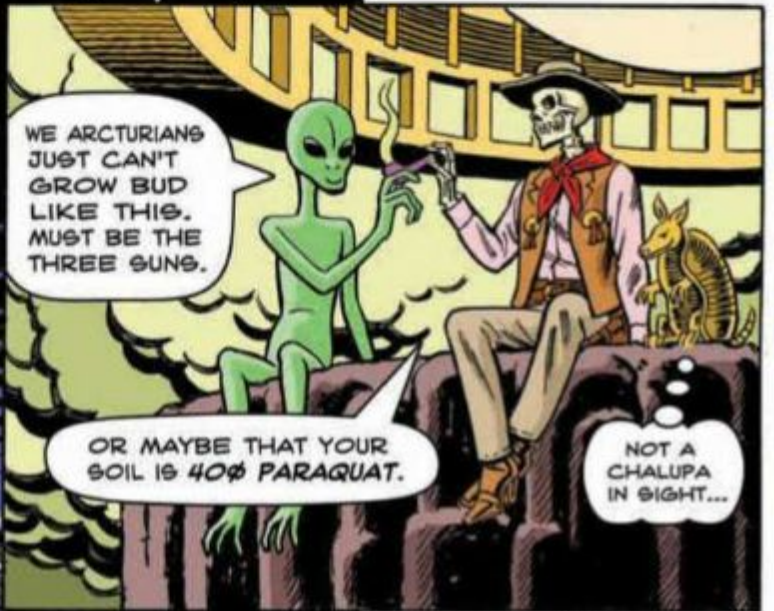


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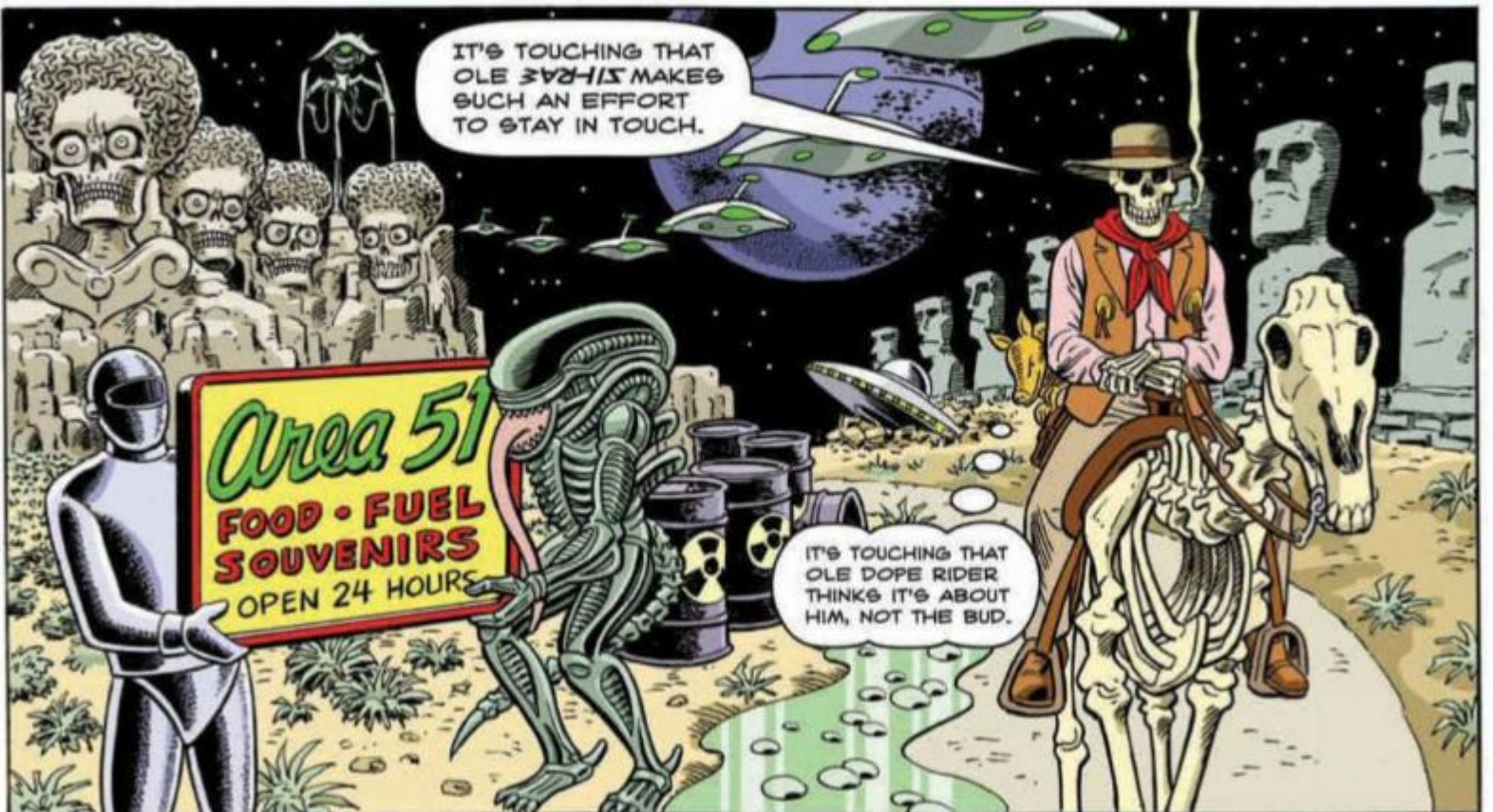


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BY PAUL KIRCHNER





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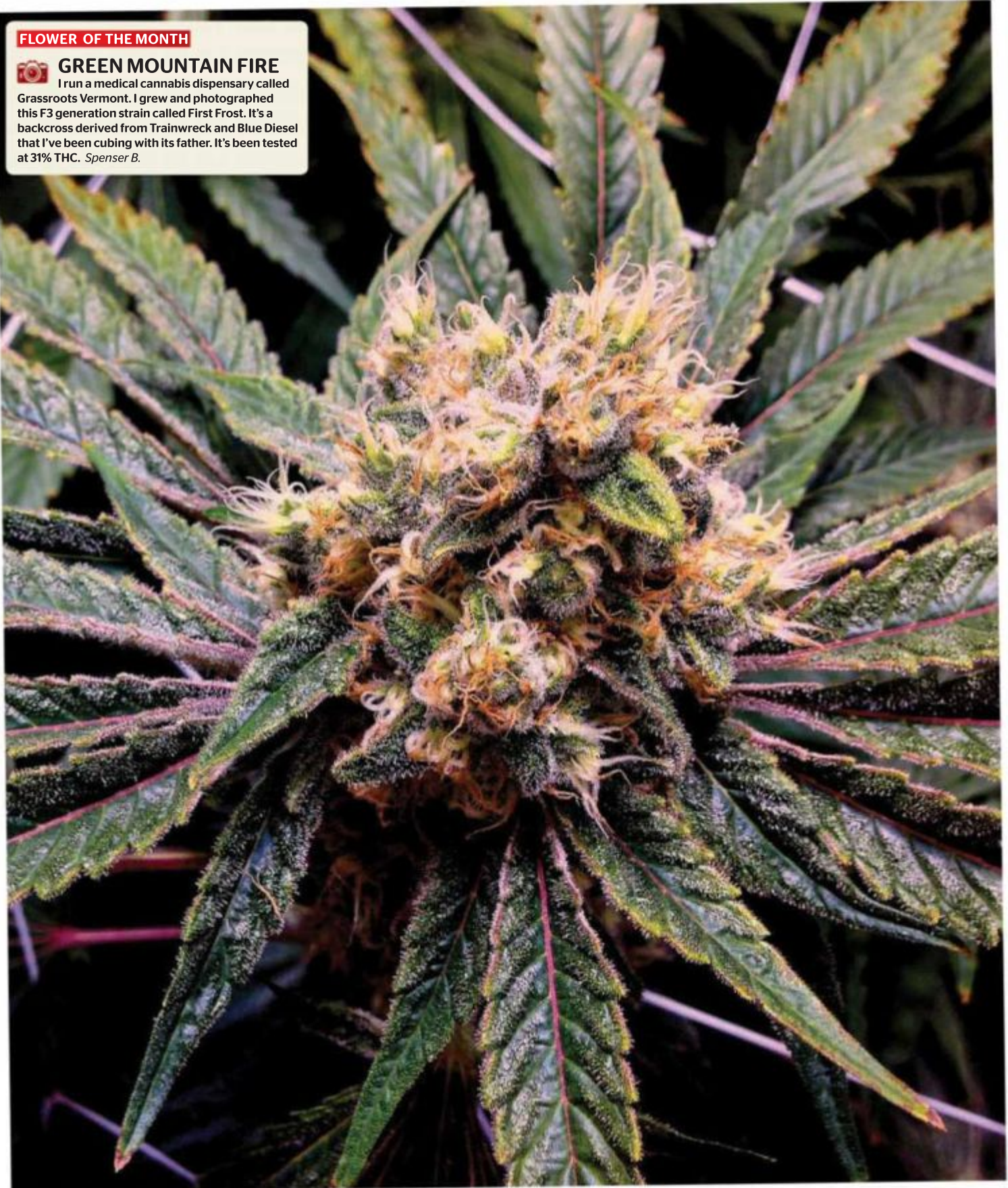
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**FLOWER OF THE MONTH**



**GREEN MOUNTAIN FIRE**

I run a medical cannabis dispensary called Grassroots Vermont. I grew and photographed this F3 generation strain called First Frost. It's a backcross derived from Trainwreck and Blue Diesel that I've been cubing with its father. It's been tested at 31% THC. *Spenser B.*





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**GROW OF THE MONTH**



**WEEDSTOCK**

I finally got sick of renting out my extra bedroom to strangers. Say hello to my new "roommates with benefits!" *Nate Upstate*

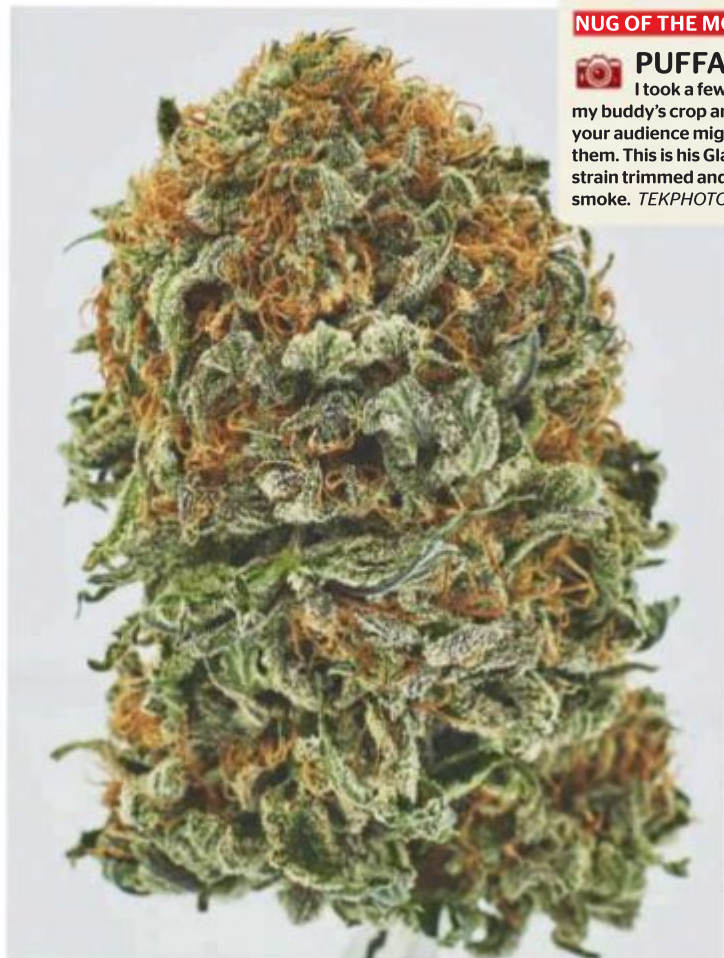


**NUG OF THE MONTH**



**PUFFARELLA**

I took a few shots of my buddy's crop and thought your audience might enjoy them. This is his Glass Slipper strain trimmed and ready to smoke. *TEKPHOTOS*



**CRITTERS OF THE MONTH**

**GRASSHOPPERS IN LOVE**



As I prepare for this summer's outdoor garden I'm inspired by an image from last year. Apparently humans aren't the only ones who get amorous when around cannabis. *Gumbo Gabe*





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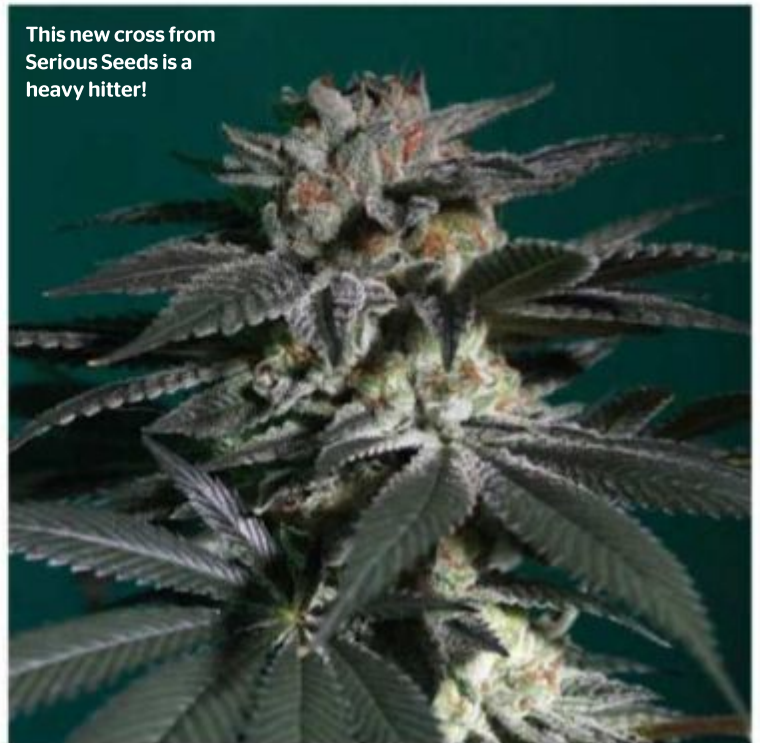


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## ► New Strain Report: Serious Kush

Renown seed breeders Serious Seeds introduce new genetics to the cannabis pantheon. European cultivation correspondent GBI reveals the details of this potent and frosty new cross of Serious Seeds' legendary White Russian and the real-deal OG Kush.

## ► Pot Jobs 2017

Our annual report on finding a career in the cannabis industry enters its fourth year. If you're looking to get involved in the burgeoning billion dollar business of bud, we'll show you how in our 2017 Pot Jobs Report.

## ► Humboldt's Finest Cannabis

Danny Danko reports from the heart of marijuana country, the Emerald Triangle in Northern California, where craft cannabis production has been a way of life for generations. Learn how some forward-thinking growers are setting themselves apart by creating exceptional "sun grown" pot using sustainable practices paired with traditional techniques.

## ► The True Crimes of Reefer Madness

Pot prohibition was largely built on the lies established during the reefer madness era of the 1930s. We're taking a closer look at the true crimes that were spun into government-issued propaganda.

## ► Weed in Wine Country

The High Times Cannabis Cup returns to the beautiful Sonoma County Fairgrounds for a summer celebration of the best marijuana NorCal has to offer—bounteous buds from the Emerald Triangle, the purest concentrates from extract experts and much, much more!



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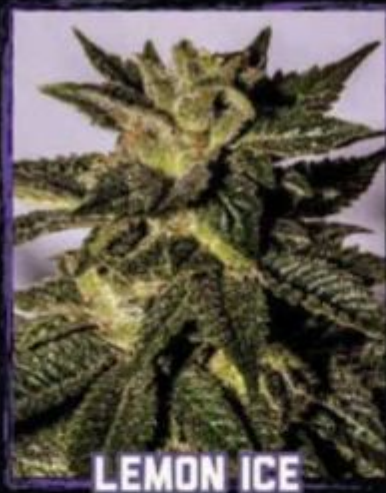
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**FEMINIZED COLLECTION**

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- price
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Send with BLANK Money Order  
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R.M.S.S.  
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Vancouver, BC  
Canada V5L 3X0

Ship To:		Sub-Total			
Address:		Reg. S&H (\$11.00)			
		Promo Code Discount			
City:		Express \$30/Overnight \$75			
Region/State:		TOTAL \$ Enclosed:			
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